Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Algeria

Council of Ministers Examines June Elections

LD1605142191 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 16 May 91

[Excerpt] Algiers, 16/5/91 (APS)—The Council of Ministers which met yesterday under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid examined the evolution of operations of organization of legislative elections of 27 June 1991. The operations of review of electoral lists are normally achieved and are to be carried on till 20 May. A particular effort and an exceptional logistic support were made to enable to delivery in delays [as received] the voters cards and the national identity cards.

The Council of Ministers was informed about the first elements relating to the putting forward of candidature: 5078 citizens are candidates in the 542 electoral [words indistinct] citizens as independent candidates—intervening by the end of debates, the president of the republic insisted first of all on the necessity to see to the guarantees and conditions of a democratic debate abiding by rules of equity and rights and duties of all the formations. It called all the institutions and personnel to work with the maximum of rigour and transparence in the management of this electoral consultation.

The president of the republic put a stress on the necessity of a faithful contribution of all the parties and candidates for a good achievement of this (?scrutiny) which constitutes an important step in the setting up of deep political changes made by [word indistinct]. He called on the parties, their candidates as well as the independent candidates to make from this historical time a privileged moment of solidarity, sound competition [word indistinct] the respect of others, at the measure of dignity of our people and the unity of the nation. In this regard, he reaffirmed his determination to work for the reinforcement of the democratic way in the strict respect of constitutional principles and demands of stability of states (?institutions) in this crucial (?stage of) the nation's life. [passage omitted]

Army Intends To Stay out of Election Debate

LD2205204691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The National Popular Army announced in a communique issued today that since the 1989 Constitution, it has of its own accord relinquished political and partisan affiliation, and thus reiterated its intention to stay out of the political debate and to efficiently devote its efforts to the tasks assigned to it as a national institution in charge of defending the territorial integrity and security of the country, in accordance with Article 24 of the Constitution.

Electing the Legislative Council on 27 June 1991 will mark a decisive date for the future of Algeria and a democratic choice for all political formations and for the electoral body itself.

Taking into account the historical value of this event, the communique added that electoral consultation should be carried out without any threat or pressure so that the next council can be a true reflection of the real polular will.

As the date of the elections approaches, the communique went on to say, the National Popular Army will not relinquish its duties as a public force, without any prejudice to its commitment to total neutrality toward political formations.

The communique concluded by stating that this is why the military authorities have stationed units close to the suburbs of residential groupings so as to best secure [words indistinct] the probable requirmements of the situation under the appropriate circumstances of time and place.

Believing in the concepts of discipline, self-sacrifice and loyalty on the part of all members of the National Popular Army toward the state, the National Popular Army, is positive, says the communique, that the citizens' civic sentiment will express the legitimate ambitions of the nation under these circumstances which are decisive for the democratic party.

Islamic Front Demands Presidential Elections Date

LD2205224391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Cheikh Abassi Madani, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] official spokesman, presided today over a popular rally in the city of el-Eulma in Getif Province.

The rally was attended by a great number of the front's activists and through it Mr. Abassi Madani gave the republic's president one week to announce a date for the early presidential elections or else, as Abassi Madani said, no elections.

Mr Abassi Madani said that the date of the early presidential elections should be before the date of the legislative elections or on the same day. Mr Abassi Madani announced that unless the republic's president gives a reply by the end of the week the FIS will adopt an attitude, without specifying the nature of that attitude.

About the strike which the FIS intends to organize, Mr Abassi Madani said that it is very close, without giving any further details.

Ben Bella Urges Citizens 'Vote For Change'

LD1905201791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] [Announcer] The leader of the Movement for Democracy [MDA] and former president, Mr. Ahmed

Ben Bella, today continued his tour in the Algerian west by going to Tlemcen. Our radio correspondent speaks to us about his activity there:

[Begin recording] In a mass rally held this afternoon in Tlemcen, former President Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella called for the need to be vigilant, because, as he put it, the country is in danger. After analyzing the political situation, he criticized the current reforms at length, saying, in summary, that the current government has lost all credibility. How can we seek the building of a strong economy, when we do not have cadres to use in agriculture?

The leader of the MDA also said: My only party is Algeria, and there is no escape from democracy and pluralism, because we have suffered a great deal from the power of a single party that no longer has any credibility.

After categorically denying that he has called for voting for the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] he analyzed at length the situation of the Arab nation after the Gulf war. He strongly criticized some Arab regimes which, he said, are traitors and history will judge them as such. The former president concluded his address by urging the citizens to vote for change, because the solution, as he said, will remain in your hands during the coming legislative elections, and afterwards the presidential elections to which, he said, we will be calling, directly after the renewal of the parliament. [end recording]

Hamrouche Says Transition to Democracy Now Over

LD1605143791 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 16 May 91

[Excerpts] Algiers, May 16 (APS)—The head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, said Wednesday here that the delicate transitional phase towards political, economic and social democracy is finished and Algeria is consequently "on the eve of a new era where the (Algerian) man is no longer an object" but the free artisan of his future.

Speaker at the end of the works of these two "Days of Public Entrepreneurs" organized by the National Union of Public Entrepreneurs (UNEP), Hamrouche said that this period of adaptation was heavy with obstacles, pressures, and "mutual misunderstandings" between public [words indistinct] managers without [word indistinct] on the heart of the question but only on means and rhythm of implementation of reforms.

However, Hamrouche said, "enormous progress" has been realized within one year and a half of the safeguard of the dynamics of economic and social development and the preservation of the ("productive) public sector, thanks to the patience of decision-makers at all levels and the enlargement of the democratic field. [passage omitted]

Expressing his gratitude to the entrepreneurs for their active support to reforms, the head of government showed his total support to their main request which is the rapid setting up of a national economic and social council.

Prime Minister Hamrouche Interviewed on Reforms

PM2005101691 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 May 91 pp1,14

[Interview with Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche by Jacques Amalric—date and place not given]

[Text] [Amalric] What is really at stake in these elections? Is it a fight between secularism and fundamentalism?

[Hamrouche] No. I regard that debate as very marginal. The real debate is whether Algeria has achieved a state of political maturity which would enable it to start its second revolution—a democratic revolution in which the citizens play an active part in economic, social, and political life through political parties. That is the whole question.

It is not a debate between Islam and secularism, between those in power and those aspiring to power, not even a debate between local political bosses and reformers. Having said that, I am convinced that our people have reached a stage at which they are capable of choosing between two programs, two policies, two ways of seeing things, assessing things, and governing. That is what is at stake. I cannot swear that I am not mistaken.

Before the end of July, we will know whether the people have achieved that maturity or not. However, I can already add that I am disappointed by the fact that a large number of opposition politicians have refused to stand up. Are they afraid? Do they regard the elections as negligible? It is up to them to answer.

[Amalric] A multiparty system automatically means that no party is assured in advance of a majority.

[Hamrouche] Precisely. But in fact the current debate is distorted because it is taking place as if there really were several parties, several programs. However, all Algerians know that there is only one program—ours, the reform program.

For us, for the government, this reform program—comprehensive reform—affects the whole of society. Moreover, it is this which made the political parties' task so difficult. How can our program be opposed? The question raised is this: Can this reform program only be the program of one political party, for the duration of one election campaign? Is it not rather a comprehensive program which affects everybody, with which everybody should identify?

Unfortunately, the political parties, perhaps because of lack of experience, think that they can express opposition for its own sake without putting forward an alternative solution. However, the alternative to the single party is reform. That is why the parties cannot imagine how they will live through the election campaign. As men

in power, in government, we have perhaps been rather hard on them because we have not allowed them to choose the method.

Indeed, what can a political party say faced with the reforms which we are advocating, other than to advocate a return to the single party system? But that is outmoded, nobody clings to it any longer, and given the experience of 28 years, nobody wants to defend that option.

It is true that the democrats are defending democracy. They do so by trying to portray democracy as if it were different from reform. Faced with the difficulty of that exercise, I understand why some political parties are retreating into criticism alone. But criticism is not a program.

[Amalric] But you are more vulnerable to criticism than other parties because you represent the legacy of the single party.

[Hamrouche] We are vulnerable to criticism, it is true, because we give the impression of continuing the old system. But we are also the reformers of that system. We are also the people who first began to criticize the system. We are the only ones capable of putting forward a new system of alternation, and dismantling the old mechanism. No opposition party is capable of doing that.

[Amalric] In the parties putting forward candidates, do you see anybody with whom you might possibly work?

[Hamrouche] I can work with all patriots and democrats. I can work with all Algerian men and women who believe in change, pluralism, democracy, and freedom of speech and opinion. On that basis nobody is excluded. Our vulnerability is also our strength. We are vulnerable because, whether you like it or not, we belong to the old system, but we are changing.

But our strength is that we are the only ones who are really proposing change—a realistic, palpable program which the people understand and feel. You cannot, as the opposition is doing, ask people to vote for a purely negative program, reduced to systematic criticism, the rejection of all we propose. No, I do not think that the people could vote for such a program.

[Amalric] You define yourself as a "National Liberation Front [FLN] renewalist...."

[Hamrouche] Or reformer, as you wish. Both words have been used.

[Amalric] What is the "conservative FLN" and what are your relations with its representatives?

[Hamrouche] On a personal level, they are very friendly, very proper. There is a great deal of respect and esteem. But we do not share the same ideas.

[Amalric] That is a problem. You will have reformist and conservative deputies under the same FLN name.

[Hamrouche] I can assure you that there will not be a single candidate standing for the "reform FLN" who does not advocate reforms and is not a democrat.

[Amalric] Was the battle for nominations in the FLN a tough one?

[Hamrouche] It was tough, because it is a party which has many cadres, great resources, because there were almost 18,000 candidates—all good candidates. We had problems in some places. But where renovation worked and where the FLN opened up to the whole of civilian society, there was no difficulty in deciding. There were three or four places where renovation did not work, because the incumbents did not want to adopt the necessary open approach. In those places, the situation was very difficult and the national commission was forced to decide.

[Amalric] However, it is very difficult for men who for more than 25 years have established this bureaucratic system, this economy based on heavy industry which is now so strongly criticized, to rally round to the reforms. A man like Mr. Abdesselam, the father of the socialist economy, sounds like an outright opponent when he talks of you.

[Hamrouche] I understand them. I have always understood them. I have always been indulgent toward them, be it in private discussions, internal debates, or public speeches. We accept responsibility for everything negative, everything produced by this administration; also everything positive and there are many positive things. It is true that it is difficult for them. When you are young, you try to imagine a society, a life, a country, and what you imagine is sometimes utopian. And then, one day, you discover the harsh reality of things and the rules. Of course, you are dissatisfied and frustrated, and you feel you have failed in some way.

[Amalric] What do you say to those who accuse you of "gerrymandering" by doubling the number of constituencies?

[Hamrouche] First, all democracies carry out such adjustments that are not based purely on arithmetic. Second, it is necessary to take account of the country's situation, our vast area, the differences between northern and southern Algeria, between the cities and rural districts. Having said that, we will perhaps have too many deputies.

[Amalric] How do you justify the automatic proxy granted to the husband to vote in his wife's place?

[Hamrouche] In this case too, you have to take account of the country's sociological realities and the burden they impose. You must not forget that many women do not vote, whatever you do. In addition, the electoral law does not refer to the right of proxy given to the husband but to the spouse. A woman can also vote on her husband's behalf.

[Amalric] To return to the FLN conservatives, do you ever think of Gorbachev's problems?

[Hamrouche] I often think of what is happening in the Soviet Union. We are very fortunate: Unlike the Soviet Union we have started reforms on all fronts simultaneously. When you want to reform, you disturb people's habits, you upset them. Second, it is always the negative aspects which appear first; the positive aspects can only come later. That is why if you waste time when you introduce a reform, you allow the opponents of the reform to mobilize. On the basis of this principle, we thought it was necessary to introduce reforms on all fronts—in the enterprise, in agriculture, in the social sphere, in the university, in health care, in the administration to ensure that everybody felt involved, thus creating a general impetus in all sections of society.

At the same time, we accepted the risk of being voted out by the voters, but only after all the reforms had been started. Even if that happened, at least the reforms would have been launched. But so much progress has since been made that things have now reached the point of no-return. Indeed, we have perhaps benefited from the crisis which the people have been experiencing since the end of 1986. The reforms have not added an additional burden, the people knew that there was already a crisis, that it was not due to the reforms.

But by launching the reforms on all fronts, two sectors have encountered resistance—higher education and health care. They are now anachronisms: They are experiencing the negative aspects of the old system and the changes in an environment to which they have not adapted. So much so that doctors and university teachers are now criticizing the government for not applying the reforms against their will. As a politician, I am paying twice: I was criticized at the beginning for introducing the reforms and now I am criticized for not having implemented them.

[Amalric] As a former soldier, where do you place the Army in this setting? How is it reacting?

[Hamrouche] The Army is responding well to these changes, it is changing very well and very quickly. As soon as we started to discuss a new Constitution, after the 1988 events, the military were the first to declare their readiness to withdraw from the FLN leadership, from the Central Committee, and to conform to the constitutional rules. Since then, the Army has been undergoing modernization and professionalization. This despite the fact that the idea of intervention by the Army in cases of a threat to national unity is being extended to the internal situation.

This principle exists in all the Consitutions of the world, but it is intended to apply to a war launched by a foreign enemy, a foreign power, attempting to seize part of the national territory. In our country, in this transitional period, the people realize that if there really is a threat, it would be a civil war, and I accept that interpretation. The Army is aware of its mission and its role.

[Amalric] At all events, if the experiment in a multiparty system succeeds, the Army will lose its political power and the influence it has over the political system which will necessarily diminish.

[Hamrouche] There are two generations in the Army. One is the generation which emerged from the national liberation struggle. That generation had a political role—it did not join the Army for a military career. When it engaged in politics, nobody ever felt that it had come to politics through the Army; it was rather the reverse, even when it exceeded its missions. And then, there is a second generation, which came after independence, whose members chose the Army as a profession not to engage in politics. I therefore think that the problem will disappear in time.

In any society, especially in the developing countries or emerging democracies, people have always had worries about the Army. Indeed, everything depends on the intelligence of the politicians, parties, and majorities which emerge in the future. The important thing is to efficiently manage relations with the Army and defense policy. If we succeed in maintaining a general balance in terms of development, in terms of career development in the administrative, economic, and military sectors, there is no danger.

On the other hand, if we give as many privileges as we can to the military compared with other sectors of society, there is a real danger; but, if we give as many advantages as possible to civil servants, and politicians, and if we completely ignore the Army, we will also be running a great risk. The whole point is to achieve a balance and maintain it.

[Amalric] You will be heavily involved in the campaign. Will the president do likewise or remain in the background to some extent?

[Hamrouche] I think he will try to do both. I have not asked him this question, but knowing him and his links with the FLN, his commitment as head of state and president of all the Algerians, he will certainly try to reconcile the two.

[Amalric] If you are reelected as head of government, what are the two or three problems which strike you as most urgent?

[Hamrouche] The most urgent thing is the integration of young people into working life. The second problem is that of housing, where we want to promote a new approach which is completely different from the one hitherto adopted. We will also continue the reforms, aimed at improving the economy. We have the means of doing so, and they will have a supervisory role. The third point is the debt problem: We must continue to negotiate to reduce the external constraints on our balance of payments. These are the three main areas.

[Amalric] Is Algerian society mature enough for the demographic problem to be openly discussed?

[Hamrouche] Yes, I think so. For two years, the Algerians have been discussing many problems, including taboo subjects and unlikely subjects.

[Amalric] But demography is not an unlikely subject!

[Hamrouche] Such a debate would be very useful, and I personally would like it. But it is better to deal with it calmly immediately after the elections. Not during the elections, it would not hold people's attention and it requires a great deal of explanation.

[Amalric] How do you view Franco-Algerian relations after the Gulf War? Can they return to a smooth course or do you think that the Gulf crisis marks a kind of profound psychological change?

[Hamrouche] What worries me is the calm situation. We are calm. Problems have been raised. Every time relations between Algeria and France have been discussed, they have been discussed calmly with great pragmatism, but the surprising thing is there is no follow-up on the French side. We meet, talk, apparently agree, but things do not take shape. I have the feeling that they are making do with a wait-and-see attitude on the other side of the Mediterranean.

[Amalric] Until the 27 June elections?

[Hamrouche] Probably. People in France are trying to suggest that if relations with Algeria are going badly it is because France was involved in the Gulf War and the Algerians are displeased about that. It is as if, before the war, things were going very well whereas in my view things had not been going well since 1988. The Gulf War had no influence on what is happening between Algeria and France.

[Amalric] What do you expect from Paris in practical terms?

[Hamrouche] A clear position on all our relations, on financial problems, on the problem of our community in France.

[Amalric] What questions do you think need to be settled with regard to the problem of the Algerian community in France?

[Hamrouche] More opportunities for the Algerian community to organize, more chance to improve their living conditions, to secure housing, a little more protection, and then the opportunity to have access to their culture. These are rapid improvements which would not cost France much and which would not place the presence of Algerians in France in doubt. However, I would not like to forget to pay tribute to the contribution made by all, to the climate of moderation and serenity throughout the Gulf crisis.

[Amalric] What about the financial sphere?

[Hamrouche] We have been discussing our individual problems to do with the present situation for three years now. We always receive an attentive hearing, but nothing specific happens. We hear echoes from the financial markets and institutions and banks which tend to be unfavorable, rather aggressive, saying that the only solution for Algeria is the rescheduling of its debt. If French financial circles are not now prepared to help us, they can at least take a neutral position in this debate with our partners. But why adopt a negative position with regard to us?

[Amalric] What can you tell us about the Chinese nuclear reactor which is being constructed in your country?

[Hamrouche] I am not worried by the media fuss about this. I think it is natural for France and other countries or powers to ask questions about the fate of this reactor. But what worries me is the desire of all the developed countries to prevent the other nations from being developed one day. By "developed" I do not necessarily mean militarily developed. It is possible to be economically, socially, and culturally developed without having the nuclear bomb. This is my view and the view held by all Algerian decision makers.

And that is why when the production of this reactor was decided, we set up the High Commission for New Energy Sources, and the Scientific Center at El-Noussala, just next to the site. Everything was made public in the JOURNAL OFFICIEL. If we had had different designs, we would have done what others do and hidden everything until the last minute.

The construction of this reactor was negotiated primarily with France and then with the Germans, but France refused and the Germans were too expensive. But why is the military aspect or the military use of nuclear power now the only aspect being highlighted? The impression we have is that they are trying to portray us as monsters arming to kill everybody.

Nobody ever says that we are trying to master nuclear energy to develop our agriculture, and our research, to train men more effectively to take control of the country's economic problems, to try to combat famine, disease, and infant mortality. Everybody knows that nuclear energy is part of economic development and that it has several uses, in medicine among other spheres.

[Amalric] Have you already contacted the Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna to ask it to carry out inspections?

[Hamrouche] We are a member of that agency. When we completed the Argentinian reactor in Draria, we notified them, we negotiated, and they came. When the Ain-Oussera reactor enters service, we will do likewise. That is all.

[Amalric] When will it be operational?

[Hamrouche] I have no idea. If you take account of how long projects take in Algeria, it will be some time yet.

Hamas, Islamic Front Alliance Possible

LD1705155191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The Movement of the Islamic Society, Hamas, held a rally in the municipality of Kouba [Algiers] yesterday on the occasion of the opening of its new office in the district. The rally was attended by Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah [Hamas leader] who made a speech in which he introduced the Hamas movement and its stands on the events taking place in the political arena and focused mainly on his platform aimed at widening the impact of the movement. In reply to a question on the presence of Hamas in Kouba after the opening of the new office and about the political battle it is expected to enter with the other parties which are preparing themselves for the 27 June elections, the head of the Kouba office, Mr. Abdelwahab Abdelhalim, told our colleague Mohsin Slimani:

[Begin recording] [Abdelhalim] The movement's presence in Kouba is not recent and it goes back to the 1970s. Prior to the days of openness and multipartism, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah worked in this area and we were among those who used to attend his lectures regularly. When openness came we also had several activities in Kouba within the Association of Guidance and Reform. We welcome anything that serves Islam, and we also welcome anything that serves national unity. We welcome anything that serves the Islamic project. We hope, in this office and throughout the movement, to find a formula which will unite the Islamists particularly in the second round of the elections. We also hope to be among those who will obtain a satisfactory share (of the seats). God willing. [end recording]

On the sidelines of the rally, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah told the national radio that the reports carried by some newspapers about joint lists between Hamas, the Islamic Salvation Front, and Ennahda movement were unfounded. He indicated that the question of alliances would be examined by his movement in the second round.

Prime Minister Discusses Ties With PRC Official

LD1005221891 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Azzeddine Laraki received PRC Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang at the prime minister's headquarters this afternoon. The meeting dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation which bring the two countries together and with the means that are commensurate with their development and consolidation.

The meeting was attended by Ahmed Cherkaoui, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and the PRC ambassador to Morocco and the close assistants to the prime minister.

The PRC foreign minister also had a meeting this afternoon with Ahmed Cherkaoui, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. The two sides discussed Moroccan-Chinese relations and reviewed the files of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, and ways to strengthen it.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments in the international arena, including the repercussions of the Gulf war on the Arab world and the Arab Maghreb area in particular.

Press Communique on Algerian Premier's Visit

LD1605173691 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Algiers, 16/5/91 (APS)—The visit paid in Algiers by the Tunisian delegation led by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui was sanctioned by the release of a joint press communique.

In this communique the two sides registered the similarity of the two countries points of view as to bilateral, Arab, African and international questions and agreed in this connection to promote their concertations and coordination.

Dealing with the Algero-Tunisian relations, the two sides expressed their satisfaction as to the great achievements made in different fields in [word indistinct] time which followed the December 1990 Tunis meeting.

The two sides also paid tribute to the leaps achieved in the carrying out of decisions of the Algero-Tunisian joint commission held on last March, as they stressed the necessicity to continue to strive efforts in [words indistinct] their cooperation in (?different) fields? On another turn, the two sides registered with satisfaction the positive developments and the steps accomplished in the UMA (Arab Maghreb Union) edification as they pointed out their determination to reinforce the foundations of the Union and consolidate its institutions and reinforce its part on the Arab and international scene. The visit in Algiers of the Tunisian delegation was sanctioned by the signing of a trade and tariff agreement as well as an industrial cooperation accord.

It is worth recalling that the Tunisian premier left yesterday Algiers and made a statement to the press in which he notably declared [words indistinct] registered on the bilateral plan, very encouraging results which benefits will profit the Algerian and Tunisian citizens" adding that the meeting aimed mainly at developing "concertation, dialogue and common action in favour of the two brother peoples and the UMA peoples in general".

"We are realistic and we act far from slogans", he said, before pointing out that the visit aimed at "facilitating the stay of the two countries citizens and enforce accords of bilateral cooperation in the industrial and commercial fields".

Algeria's guest also noted that the Maghreb can only but be reinforced when one knows that we cannot set up every state separately considering mutations lived

through [words indistinct] world. The situation recalls to us the necessity "to join our efforts to make our best in the world in permanent evolution".

Egypt

Report on Israeli Nuclear Arms Agreement Denied

NC2205160591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has described a report in the U.S. newspaper THE HERALD TRIBUNE as totally false. According to the report, Egypt had agreed not to link the elimination of chemical weapons to that of nuclear weapons and had told Western governments that it would agree to Israel's retaining some nuclear weapons if it made certain political concessions in a comprehensive peaceful settlement.

In an exclusive statement today to the newspaper AL-AHALI, organ of the opposition National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, Dr. al-Baz said that Egypt believes that the ban on weapons of mass destruction should extend to all chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons and should be binding on all sides, Israel included.

Al-Baz added that it was inconceivable that Egypt or anyone else would accept any arrangement that granted Israel a special privilege of possessing nuclear weapons it could use to confront the Arab side.

Egypt Reportedly Conveys U.S. Concerns to Libya

PM1705125991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 May 91 p 1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Egyptian Mediation Succeeds in Easing Severity of Tension Between Libya and United States"]

[Text] Egypt last week received U.S. assurances of the nonexistence of aggressive intentions toward the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Egyptian diplomatic sources have emphasized that U.S. President George Bush sent a special message to President Husni Mubarak via U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner. It dealt with the Egyptian mediation to ease the severity of tension in Libyan-U.S. relations. In his message Bush pointed out that the U.S. Administration would not take any measure against Libya, and that it was doing its utmost to prevent the arrival in Libya of any equipment, material, or international expertise for use in the production of chemical weapons.

The U.S. President reemphasized Washington's determination to continue to watch what he termed Libyan attempts to acquire a chemical armament capability. The sources added that during his recent visit to Libya President Mubarak conveyed to Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi U.S. concern about the possibility of using the al-Rabitah plant for the manufacture of chemical weapons. Presidents Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi inspected the plant within the framework of the Libyan attempts to prove that the plant is not used for producing chemical weapons. The sources emphasized that the Egyptian mediation between Libya and the United States has achieved tangible success, especially with regard to halting the escalation of tension between the two countries.

U.S., Israeli Attempts To Split Arabs Viewed

NC2305070491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes in its editorial today that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's shuttles have shown that Egypt and Syria are the strong foundation for any effective Arab role, now that the Arab Gulf states have taken a different route and Kuwait has made a decision about its stand on security arrangements in the Gulf region.

It says that the Egyptian and Syrian stands underline the priority of protecting pan-Arab security and the need to define a base for an effective Arab stand against the U.S. and Israeli policies of fragmenting the Arab stand. These policies intend to fragment the Arab stand by pushing the Gulf states to take an independent stand and by raising the idea of excluding Syria from the peace process. The idea of excluding Syria follows Syrian-U.S. differences over the UN role in the proposed regional peace conference and over the negotiations to find new interpretations for the UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-AHRAM says that Egypt's position that it would not attend any conference in which Syria was absent underlines Cairo's desire to formulate an Arab stand. It adds that the Arab countries trying to make security arrangements outside the Arab framework will find that they will be stabbing pan-Arab security in the back. It is the same security these countries have relied upon to achieve their interests.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses that the stands taken by some Arab countries—stands that help the fragmentation of the Arab stand—could not help these countries' interests or protect their national security.

AL-AHRAM Says Israel Set 'Time Bomb' for Baker

NC2305081991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir planted a time bomb for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker by announcing that several secret agreements had been reached with Washington but that it is not the right time to reveal them.

In its editorial today the paper adds: Although Shamir said that these agreements will help Baker to conduct close, positive contacts with "potential partners," including Syria, the emphasis on "several agreements" leads to misgivings: The term is cacophonous to Arab ears because Oriental countries have long suffered from it.

The paper notes that Shamir cannot be exonerated for attempting to cause a rift between Washington and Arab capitals, particularly since Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens had asserted that, during its lengthy talks with Baker, Israel did not receive any covert or overt pressure or threats of sanctions, and that this kind of thing never happens between the two sides.

The paper points out that Shamir's statement also came during suspicious circumstances. The American optimism implies that serious changes occurred in the stagnant, complex problems without a sign in the Arab capitals that these changes touch the core of the matter—the occupied land.

Editorial Views Bush-Baker Administration Policy

NC1705164091 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 May 91 pp 1, 3

[Mahfuz al-Ansari editorial: "A Second Message To Bush: Do Not Make the Liberation of Kuwait an 'American Conspiracy'"]

[Text] I am afraid that the spirit prevalent during the Bush-Baker administration's management of the Gulf crisis, from the invasion until liberation, has changed, or started to fade.

The world still remembers three words U.S. President George Bush spoke when pressure built up, questions were pressing, and voices urged a war or postwar decision. At that time, Bush confidently looked at journalists and spoke the words: "Wait," "watch," and "learn."

A person following up on the U.S. President's movements, policy, and style—from the time those words were spoken until he issued his decision to stop the ground battles and military operations on the evening of 26 February—realizes quite well that he meant what he said: that calculations were "computer-accurate"; that stances and procedures were being weighed on a very sensitive scale; and that the psychological, social, and nationalist considerations involving the countries of the region—on whose land the confrontation was taking place and who were directly or indirectly involved in the conflict—were very much taken into account by the "American decisionmaker."

It may be useful to pause and view two basic dimensions or considerations that may guide us and help us show to what extent the American decision and conduct were perceptive, wise, sensitive, and caring about the people's feelings in our region. These two considerations are:

First, the United States insisted from beginning to end on not involving Israel or making it a party to the crisis and the fighting, even when the "Scud" missiles—regardless of their efficiency—hit Israel and Tel Aviv's heart and cities. Washington succeeded in keeping the "Hebrew" state outside the crisis and the operations, out of consideration for the position of Arab and Muslim allies, as well as for the feelings of the people in all Arab and Muslim nations.

Second, American President Bush imposed his decision to stop military operations on the evening of 26 February, against the will of General Schwarzkopf, the field commander of the allied forces, and against the advice of the "Pentagon," as soon as the Iraqi troops in Kuwait put down their arms and the Egyptian troops penetrated the central point on the Kuwaiti front, surrounded and seized the positions, and entered the city of Kuwait.

The U.S. President made his decision to stop the operations after the 7th and 18th U.S. Corps, assisted by two French and British divisions, succeeded in penetrating the central area of Iraq on the Euphrates River, seized al-Nasiriyah and the airports, and isolated or surrounded the Iraqi troops in the south from al-Basrah up to Kuwait. At that point of the "disorganized withdrawal," the troops who laid down their arms and abandoned their tanks were at the mercy of the allied troops and the checkpoints established along a 200-km road. At that point, Bush decided to stop the "massacre," to avoid further bloodletting and destruction, and to stop military operations against unarmed soldiers and against unguarded civilian and military positions who showed no resistance whatsoever. Led by Schwarzkopf, the American military wanted a war of "annihilation and termination." However, the political and strategic calculations of the Bush-Baker administration realized that continuing these operations and allowing massacres might turn "victory" into a catastrophe. They saw that it might turn Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion against them. They saw that the continuation of battles might push the region and its people to a state of disturbance and chaos which could not be contained or controlled, even if all the soldiers on earth were massed for that purpose.

During its management of the crisis, the Bush-Baker administration was eager to maintain the international umbrella through the 12 UN Security Council resolutions. It was eager to listen constantly and act upon the views of Egypt, which it saw as a significant regional power. These and other considerations culminated in a process that was careful to maintain Arab and international legitimacy and to take the psychological, social, and political considerations of the region's people into account.

What we see these days gives a general impression that these considerations, and the political insight and wisdom with which Bush managed his task and role in the previous period, has started to fade and retire into a corner. Evidence that Bush has abandoned or drifted

away from the commitments his administration made over the past eight months is seen in the sudden decision to involve the Gulf countries as observers or full partners in the Middle East peace conference, whether international, regional, or just a peace conference.

The American insistence on and pressure for such a participation at this particular time are very serious. I believe that the considerations Bush took into account as he prevented Israel from getting involved throughout the crisis—during the months of mobilization and confrontation and during the battles—and when he prevented his soldiers from continuing the killing and destruction still exist in a stronger manner.

If we judge by appearance, the wrath, the lust for vengeance, and the joy of victory that possessed certain states or ruling elements in the Gulf, and even certain people, may imply that the time is ripe for putting pressure on and getting a reaction from the Gulf countries vis-a-vis their participation in settling what they termed as the Arab-Israeli conflict as an inevitable prologue for settling the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. However, we say that these are false assertions, a wrong reading, and a blind outlook. Those who do not believe this should go to the Arab Maghreb countries; to the streets of Jordan and Palestine; to the Islamic arena; and to the hearts of people so that they can see and read.

Pushing the Gulf countries at this early stage of talking about a settlement and a solution is unsafe.

Saudi Arabia—the land of the two holy mosques, Kaaba, the prophet's grave; the birthplace of the revelation; and the point to which all Muslims all over the earth turn their faces—should not be dragged into this "trap" at such an early stage of finding insights into solutions and settlements and testing stands and intentions.

It is not proper to drag these small, "fragile" Gulf states into this unsafe adventure, particularly since Israel, Shamir, Sharon, and others persist in their rejection and intransigence. They are still receiving and obstinately rejecting such announcements and declarations. They despise them and receive them with many conditions that are capitulationist and submissive in essence.

Wisdom dictates that President Bush and his administration return to the prudence that characterized his movement, style, and approach both in the crisis and in the war.

Matters in issues of war are clear and decided. They are either black or white. The choice for or against aggression, invasion, and mobilization is easy. Also, standing up against these matters is logical and acceptable, and its formal and public justification needs no convincing.

However, in matters of chronic differences and in matters that have settled in the conscience of the people and nation for years and years, one cannot move from one extreme to another at once and without a rational, acceptable, or conceivable reason. He who does not believe this must remember Saddam Husayn and his persistent endeavor to galvanize and mobilize the Islamic street behind him. He had attempted it by using the motto of wealth distribution, but the result was a limited one. He made an attempt by offering free oil to the Third World, but no one took him seriously.

Then there was his final attempt to link the withdrawal from Kuwait and Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or to link the Kuwaiti problem and the settlement of the Palestinian issue. Although unconvinced of his seriousness, he still found people who listened to him, found some he could impress, and found some he could mobilize and charge. He found a logic that backed his approach, even from the argumentative point of view.

Mr. President Bush, my message to you is: You should be patient when dealing with this sensitive issue. You should distance those people [not further identified] from this dangerous phase, especially because the Arab situation is still fragile and suffering from the shock of the earthquake.

My message to you is that you should first work for a genuine, practical, and acceptable penetration of the Israeli wall of rejection and establish the mainstays of a just and durable peace in the region. It should be based on the legitimacy that you have chosen as a foundation for remedying the Gulf crisis—a basis on which the Palestinian problem is resolved in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and in adherence to the UN Charter. Afterward, I believe, they will come to you to participate in the peace process.

There is no one in the region against peace except Israel. No one in the region now draws a parallel between the principle of withdrawal and the return of the Arab territories occupied in June 1967 and the principle of the right of the region's countries to survive and exist within safe, recognized, and guaranteed borders. No one distinguishes between this and that except Israel. It is Israel alone who wants land, recognition, and peace. Furthermore, proceeding from the Arab crisis, which began with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and which still exists, Israel is today trying to present itself as the region's policeman who protects stability and guarantees the Gulf security. Israel is trying to present itself as the engineer who is able to provide technology, manage funds, and safeguard the oil flow and to guard its convoys. Israel is trying to share wealth. It wants markets for its goods and wants investment for its programs and projects.

Finally, pressure for participation in a job is rejected. Pressure for participation in an unguaranteed or unsafe job, in a job that touchs people's sentiments, feelings, and conscinece in hard times is rejected. This participation—a game with unsafe consequences—needs to be revised and requires the wisdom and prudence that characterized your work in the past months. Otherwise, people will say: America's participation in the liberation was only a conspiracy.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Palestinian Deportations

NC2105103591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has emphasized Egypt's rejection of the Israeli Government's recent decision to deport four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip. He described the decision as a flagrant violation of all international charters concerning the protection of civilians in the occupied territories, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

Mubarak, NDP Express Sorrow Over Gandhi's Death

NC2205150391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has expressed regret and sorrow over the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that condolence cables have been sent.

The National Democratic Party [NDP] has also issued a statement expressing the sorrow felt by the Egyptian Government and people over Rajiv Gandhi's death. The statement added that Egypt hopes India will always enjoy internal solidarity and will continue to play its role in the Third World and the Nonaligned Movement.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Message From Bessmertnykh

NC2105150491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received an oral message from Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh which deals with Arab-Soviet cooperation and the Arab League's role in strengthening this cooperation.

The message was delivered by Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Polyakov during his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today. [passage omitted]

Sultan Qabus of Oman Arrives on Official Visit

NC2105153591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman arrived in Cairo from Riyadh this evening for an official three-day visit to Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak led the delegation receiving him at the airport.

Musa Comments on Talks

NC2205170191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The first round of talks between President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman opened at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis at noon today.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus held a private meeting to discuss Arab issues and Egyptian-Omani cooperation and coordination in various fields. He said that the delegations from each side also held a meeting and will continue their discussions this afternoon and tomorrow. The foreign minister said he had met this morning with his Omani counterpart, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin'-Abdallah, and explained that consultations are continuing on the prospects for implementing the Damascus Declaration and regional security arrangements. He said the outcome depends on several meetings to be held in the near future.

The foreign minister added that Egypt and Oman belong to the Mideast region and the Arab nation, and it is important to close Arab ranks around strong foundations of cooperation and mutual respect for all common rights.

The foreign minister said it is well known that there are issues which concern all Arab countries and that we all seek to reach agreement on these issues and to deal with them in the best way possible under current international conditions.

The minister said that long-standing cooperation exists between Egypt and Oman at the highest level. He noted that the good relationship between the two leaders extends to the two governments and peoples. He explained that the two countries are constantly exchanging views on various issues.

The foreign minister said that Egypt and Oman continue to consult on the latest Gulf developments. He said that everyone understands the postwar situation in the region, and this must be the subject of meaningful discussion to enable us to embark on a new Arab era based on mutual respect and respect for all Arab peoples' rights.

Commenting on reports about a possible Egyptian-Jordanian summit, 'Amr Musa said that the important thing is the general spirit prevailing in the Arab world, a spirit of solidarity which will help to formulate new Arab relations based on strong foundations.

Perez de Cuellar Statements on Zionism Criticized

NC2005112391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has once again criticized UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's statement that a 1975 UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism was a mistake.

In its editorial, the paper wonders what the UN secretary general's statement means. The paper adds that he started out saying that this resolution denied Jews the right to live in their own state like any other people in the world. The next day, he added that perhaps this resolution is behind the Israelis' objection to UN participation

in the proposed peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He went on to say that the cancellation of this resolution may open the door to Israel's acceptance of UN participation.

The paper says that the UN secretary general is deliberately overlooking some very important considerations. He forgot or ignored the fact that all Arabs, including the Palestinians, have recognized the Israelis' right to a state. Meanwhile, Israel consistently has refused to accept the exchange of land for peace and wants to have both land and peace. This would be tantamount to total surrender on the Arabs' part with no corresponding concessions from Israel.

The paper adds that the secretary general also ignores the fact that UN Resolution 242 of 1967 preceded the General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism by eight years. This resolution therefore was not the real obstacle to Israel's implementation of the UN resolutions.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying it appears the real reason for Perez de Cuellar's statement is that he wants to stay in office for a third term. It seems he, like everyone else, wants to keep his job at the Arabs' expense.

Writing in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Kamil Zuhayri says Perez de Cuellar's statements reveal ignorance and bias and conflict with his duties as secretary general. This is because the resolution considering Zionism a form of racism was approved by a majority of the member states, and the secretary general has no right to present an opinion contrary to the UN General Assembly resolutions. He adds that, by making such statements, Perez de Cuellar is openly and explicitly siding with Israel and is resuming the campaign led by Ronald Reagan and echoed by George Bush when he was his vice president two years ago.

Zuhayri notes that the United States promised to work to cancel this resolution in 1990, and this makes Perez de Cuellar's statements quite significant. He called on the Arab governments and the Arab League, as it begins its new era, to respond to these statements.

Appointment of New Cabinet Ministers Released

NC2205144691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2007 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued Presidential Decree No. 190 for the year 1991. The following is the text of the decree:

The president of the Republic,

After taking cognizance of the Constitution decrees the following:

Article 1: Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali is appointed deputy prime minister for foreign relations [lil'ilaqat al-kharijiyah] and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs.

Article 2: Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi Sulayman is appointed minister of defense and 'Amr Mahmud Musa is appointed foreign minister.

Article 3: Dr. Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad Sharif is appointed minister of local administration, Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din is appointed minister of education, and Dr. Hamdi 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Banbi is appointed minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

Article 4: This decree shall be published in the official gazette.

Signed, Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement Hails Yemen Unity

LD2205162491 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 May JANA—The leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA news agency through which he paid tribute and extended compliments for the Arab people of Yemen and their leadership on the occasion of the first anniversary of Yemen, considered to be the most significant event throughout the contemporary Arab history.

The leader of the revolution said: This unity is a start of the tranformation of the Arab land map. The train of total arab unity begins its journey from Yemen as did the historical Arab migrations and the ancient Arab civilizations that all started in Yemen.

In his statement to JANA the leader directed an urgent call to establish prompt unity between Syria and Lebanon. He said "I do call for a prompt unity between Syria and Lebanon to be implemented in the same speed and ease, through which the Yemen unity was realised and considering them as one country separated by the colonisation as they did in Yemen."

The leader said: "We are extremely delighted for the unionist steps taking place, nowadays between Syria and Lebanon. We do hope that those measures will be crowned by total unity." The leader said: "I do as well, call upon each two neighboring Arab countries to declare total Arab unity."

Minutes Signed on Integration With Sudan

LD2305024891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tripoli 22 May JANA—Minutes on implementing the declaration of integration in the political sphere between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal

Sudan, in implementation of Article 2 of the declaration of integration between the two countries, were signed at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau this evening. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation and brother 'Ali Sahlul, minister of foreign affairs of fraternal Sudan, in the presence of the brother general secretary for integration and integration affairs with Sudan and a number of experts and technocrats from both countries.

JANA has learned that the minutes of the agreement reaffirmed a number of the two countries' common stances on political matters, particularly those concerning Arab, Islamic, African, and international topics of common interest. The minutes also affirm the need for Arab joint action within the framework of the Arab League in its capacity as a pan-Arab framework which brings together the Arab nation and enables it to achieve its solidarity and unify its [political] language, and for endeavoring to bolster the Arab League to play its role for the sake of the Arab nation.

The importance of action aiming at consolidating African issues and bolstering the OAU and causes of freedom in Africa in a bid to consolidate the freedom and dignity of the African human being and put an end to colonialism and racism in Africa was also stressed.

As far as international organizations, conferences, and bodies are concerned, the minutes stipulated an announcement to implement integration in political spheres and to coordinate stances in such a manner that will consolidate the two countries' pan-Arab orientations and help to convey their viewpoints on all international topics.

The minutes also dealt with modalities for implementation of what was examined and agreed upon during these meetings in such a manner that will consolidate integration between the two countries and speed up implementation of a merger union between them through the realization of comprehensive Arab unity.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation made an address at the end of the signing ceremony which he began by expressing his happiness over the signing of the minutes for implementation of the declaration of integration in political spheres, stressing that such a step wil be very useful and will contribute to the deepening of (?eternal) and historical relations between the two fraternal countries and will help to bring about comprehensive Arab unity.

The brother secretary added that the minutes' clauses and programs will prompt us to exert more serious work along the path of unity. I urge our integration to include Egypt [word indistinct] because this is the golden triangle of the Arab nation given its weight and human and natural resources, he added. The integration of such a golden triangle with the Arab Maghreb Union will enable us to create a powerful entity which enables us to enter the era of groupings.

The brother sec: 'ary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation pointed out that we will be able, through an Arab (?political unity) to achieve a real unity for our Arab nation which will allow the Arab man to lift his head high under the sun and build his identity and create his progress.

The brother secretary expressed at the end of his address his thanks and appreciation to the Sudanese foreign minister and his accompanying delegation for their efforts to reach the aforementioned results, affirming the need for meetings between the two countries to continue in order to realize programs of integration in all fields.

Brother 'Ali Sahlul, foreign minister of fratenal Sudan, also made a speech on this occasion in which he said:

Wtih God's help and guidance we signed the minutes of our working sessions for the last three days during which fruitful discussion, constructive dialogue, and an exchange of viewpoints were made, a matter which clearly reflects the full congruity of stances and viewpoints on matters discussed and which are in particular of concern to our Arab, African and Islamic world.

He added that what was agreed following our fraternal dialogue between the brother experts from the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation and the Sudanese Foreign Ministry reaffirms our two fraternal countries' determination to go ahead with the implementation of the integration declaration and finish the march of understanding and cooperation in economic, trade, and information sectors. This effort, when coupled with our joint efforts, will allow a stride to be taken along the path of merger unity between the two fraternal countries.

Brother Sahlul added: We are hoping that through the mustering of our joint efforts and our political grouping we will be able to contribute in an effective way to the reorganization of the Arab house and to consolidate solidarity and put Arab resources in the service of fateful causes, in the forefront of which is the Palestinian cause. Within the African framework we, given our joint belonging to the African continent, pay importance to the OAU role in the consolidation of the causes of liberation, bolstering of economic (?development), facing up to all attempts aimed at harming the independence of African countries, contributing with practical initiatives for the consolidation of Arab-African solidarity and the sake of Islamic world causes through the bolstering of the role of the Islamic Conferences Organization, he added.

He asserted in his address that the present international situation compels us to face up to all moves aimed at usurping the independence of the UN, urged the need to implement the principle of equality and impartiality

when carrying out all its resolutions, and the need to carry out serious, coordinated, and unified action at international and regional conferences to achieve joint goals.

Brother 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister in fraternal Sudan, said: We, members of the apparatuses responsible for implementation of the two fraternal countries' foreign policies, should shoulder the responsibility of realizing what we have agreed. I am convinced that mechanisms and modalities of action, on which we have agreed, will work through their channels and apparatuses to oversee a subtle implementation of plans and programs.

He concluded his speech, saying: I would like to greet the internationalist leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Fatih revolution and leader of the march of the Arab nation toward unity and his brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Umar Hasan al- Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and their unified efforts to bring about Arab solidarity and consecrate [words indistinct] the comprehsive Arab unity which began with signing of the integration declaration between the two countries.

I also thank our brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah for their warm hospitality.

Sudan

Mengistu Departure From Addis Ababa Welcomed

EA2205190291 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 22 May (SUNA)—Sudan has welcomed Ethiopian President Mengistu's stepping down from power and his departure from Addis Ababa to a neighboring African country, according to yesterday's news. Professor Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, culture and information minister and the government's spokesman, said in a press statement that (?Sudan) [words indistinct] the decision taken by the former Ethiopian president and that the decision would open the way to the Ethiopian and Eritrean nations for a peaceful resolution of their issues and bring about stability in the region after bitter fighting in which tens of thousands of victims have fallen. [passage indistinct]

Official Said Expelled From Saudi Arabia

EA1105082191 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] NASHRAT AL-SUDAN [SUDAN BULLETIN], published by the Democratic National Alliance in Cairo, reports that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recently expelled Sharaf al-Din 'Ali Mukhtar, director of the Islamic Relief Office in Jiddah. He is a member of the [National] Islamic Front and brother of Brigadier General Kamal 'Ali Mukhtar, deputy director of military intelligence and one of the most prominent officials responsible for killings and torture being carried out by the Islamic Front regime.

Palestinian Movement Urges Continued Jihad

EA1905100091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The expelled members of the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, yesterday convened a news conference at the Grand Hotel in Khartoum during which they spoke of the circumstances which had led to their expulsion from Palestine on 1 January. The expellees said that their jihad march will start from Sudan, a land of the tolerant shari'ah and an Arab Islamic friendly nation, where the real strategic Palestinian hopes are embodied. The Palestinian expellees further expressed their gratitude to the Revolution Command Council and the ministerial council's chairman and the leaders of the National Salvation Revolution for their hospitality and the assurance of support by the government and the people of Sudan to the Palestinian people and their continuous jihad.

At the end of the conference, the expellees expressed confidence in the Sudan's role toward the Palestinian cause, regarding it as a central and fundamental role in pushing ahead the Islamic uprising in Palestine.

'Bandits' Shoot Down Plane Over Bahr Al-Ghazal

EA1005215891 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] A responsible source at the General Command of the People's Armed Forces has announced that the outlaws shot down a Cessna plane belonging to the Nile Safari Company over Uwayl Town Bahr al-Ghazal State, this morning. The source added that the plane was on a trip to Uwayl carrying cash as part of a plan to exchange the currency, in addition to medicines and medical supplies for the citizens in the area.

SPLA Spokesman's Confirmation

EA1405211591 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 May 91

[Excerpt] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] today confirmed that the SPLA forces of Bright Star Campaign, Phase Four, Sector Two, shot down an enemy plane, model Cessna, of Nile Safari Aviation Sudan, number ST-AHX-404-0657, over Uwayl town at 1100 hrs on 5th [date as heard] May 1991. The spokesman dismissed Khartoum's announcement over Radio Omdurman that the plane was taking new money banknotes and supplies to the people of Uwayl as rubbish and another junta's lie in their string of lies to disinform the Sudanese Army and the public.

Up to now, seven weeks after the fall of Maridi on 21st March 1991, the National Islamic Front [NIF] junta has not told the Sudanese Army what really happened to the 16th Infantry Brigade in Maridi. Instead, the junta continues to hold on to their odious life that Maridi has not fallen. Lieutenant General Hasan, the junta's deputy chief of staff [COS] for operations, knows exactly what happened to Maridi because he personally was the last to fly over Maridi in an Antonov plane to parachute supplies to his beleaguered garrison. He knows that all these supplies fell to the SPLA—an honor indeed to be parachuted ammunitions by the junta's deputy COS for operations. Lt. Gen. Hasan knows exactly what happened to his troops in Maridi because he was the last Sudanese officer to talk by radio with Colonel (al-Fatih Ahmad al-Sid), the commander of Maridi, after the latter had fled Maridi and was at the border of a neighboring country, before the SPLA dispersed the remnants of his troops in a concerted pursuit operation. It is this same Lt. Gen. Hasan that now says the plane shot down over Aweil was taking supplies to the population in Uwayl, an obvious lie, of course. [martial music]

The Cessna plane that was shot over Uwayl was engaged in evacuating enemy casualties and had made several trips before it was shot down. SPLA forces in the area have been engaged in a heavy fighting over the last three weeks in Uwayl area against a convoy codenamed Tabuk that was moving by train. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and it is these casualties that the Cessna plane was ferrying between Uwayl and Mujlad. It was only when the SPLA was satisfied and had irrefutable evidence that the plane was on a military mission that the decision was taken to shoot it down. Eight enemy soldiers died in the plane crash and the bodies of seven of them, including a mercenary foreign pilot, were identified. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor on Rules Governing New Currency

EA1705112891 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 91

[Statement by the governor of the Bank of Sudan on currency change; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear citizens, I toured various states of Sudan from the first day of the currency change. I first inspected changing centers in Khartoum State, then at the start of the second day of the exercise I visited Fashir, capital of Darfur State; Ubayd, capital of Kurdufan State; Madani, capital of the Central State; and today I visited Kassala, capital of the Eastern State.

I noticed, at the central operation chambers in all states and the [word indistinct] in all states, that there was a great deal of fraud against the [word indistinct]. Many citizens, indeed most of them, bring along sums of 5,000 pounds to change and [passage indistinct].

1. All changing banks and centers should follow these instructions from now until further notice. Any citizen who goes to the bank to change an amount exceeding 5,000 pounds must first prove that he has a recognized job with a passport or identity card only. The said citizen is allowed to receive an amount of 1,000 pounds only, and once during the changing period, instead of the 5,000 pounds mentioned in the first statement on changing.

2. Any citizen who had a current account in any bank before 10 May 1991 [words indistinct] even if he has various accounts in one bank or in several banks.

As for a group of citizens, most of whom I believe have embarked on repeated changing of currency on behalf of others and who come to the banks to change amounts of 5,000 pounds or less, the following measures will be taken against them:

1. The amount will be received from them and they will be given 500 pounds only and not the full amount.

2. Their names, addresses—work and home addresses—will all be registered in full detail.

3. They will be asked to come forward at a time to be announced later and this information will be given to the security personnel for investigation.

The deadline for changing 100 and 50 pound denominations is 1200 on Friday, 17 May. These denominations will continue to be changed until 1500, Saturday, 18 May will be the last day for changing. There will be no extension to the deadline.

Finally, I repeat my warning to citizens not to change money they do not own. Such an act will expose them to the provisions of the law. May God lead us to success. Peace be upon you.

Tunisia

Interior Minister Reveals Coup Attempt Details

LD2205134791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1318 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] A news conference was held a short while ago by Interior Minister Abdalah Kallel in which he revealed an infernal plan prepared by a group of terrorists belonging to the so-called Ennahdha [Islamic fundamentalist] movement. This plan was aimed at seizing power in Tunisia and declaring a religious theocratic state at a time when Tunisia is working to achieve development.

The minister explained that the idea of this plan began in 1988, and it consisted of five stages:

1. distributing anti-regime leaflets and writing on walls;

2. intensifying popular movement through marches and demonstrations;

3. hostile acts aimed at security stations and security men as well as the activists and headquarters of the constitutional democratic rally.

4. The fourth stage consists of spreading chaos at the university and colleges [secondary schools] and organizing violent demonstrations in the streets.

5. The fifth stage consists of two parts:

The first part is that officials of the movement will be inciting for civil disobedience and launching suicide commandos to carry out operations against specific targets.

The second part is to exploit the fact that the authorities will resort to calling in the Army for help to stop the chaos and to secure a military intervention by those soldiers, who support the so-called Ennahdha and who are planted in the Army, in order to seize power.

The minister announced that 100 military men have been arrested who belong to the so-called Ennahdha movement, as well as 200 civilians.

More on News Conference

LD2205193191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] Tunisian Interior Minister Mr. Abdallah Kallel held a news conference at the ministry this afternoon, at the beginning of which he explained that it was aimed at informing the public about the escalating and infernal plan laid down by the so-called Ennahdha movement, under the leadership of Rached Ghanouchi [leader of the Islamic Fundamentalist Movement] and his group, in order to pounce upon power in Tunisia and impose a religious, theocratic state.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel pointed out to representatives of the national and foreign media that at a time when the Tunisia of the new regime was working hard, under the leadership of President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, to give more impetus to its development march in various domains, to entrench the democratic process, and find the successful practical formulae to enable the university and the educational institutions to provide lessons in a normal way, and to train the growing generations to prepare them for contributing to the building of the future; and at a time when the efforts of the national community are made in unison to make positive steps on the road to Maghreb edification, and to invigorating joint Arab and Islamic action; and at a time when Tunisia is recording large contributions and serious work in order to entrench the type of civil society adopted by all the recognized political and social parties, in the framework of dialogue with even the representatives of the so-called Ennahdha movement, through several national public figures—this serious action was not to the liking of a small group which disliked seeing Tunisia succeed and its people move ahead toward what is better in a climate of harmony and cohesion.

This group took its terrorist course while it was at the forefront of those who had benefitted during the change, from the spirit of tolerance and humanitarian sense of the maker of change in the 7 November 1987 bloodless coup. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who had emptied jails, issued the general amnesty, and opened up the national charter to all sides.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel further said that this group had chosen to be outside the national consensus and continued planning to spread chaos and disturb the peace in various places and by various means which, after a continuous watch that had been going on since 1988, were clearly seen as part of a large-scale, infernal, and stage-by-stage plan set forth in advance and meticulously in order to pounce upon power and impose a religious, theocratic state, through secret preparations to carry out a bloody adventure.

The leadership of the so-called Ennahdha movement had made available all means to fulfill its objective in three axes which are:

1. The means—that is, the structural organization of the movement.
2. the plan, based on five stages.
3. the implementation program.

The minister of the interior reviewed these axes and explained, concerning the structural organization, that it was a pyramidal organization, part of it was open, and the second part was secret. This general structure was chaired by Rached El Ghannouchi, together with Sadok Chourou, the elected amir [title of a group leader in the fundamentalist movement], a seven-member executive bureau, and a consultative council consisting of 17 members. Five branches or constituencies emanate from the executive council, which are:
1. The branch of organization and administration.
2. The political and information branch.

3. The branch of delegations [word indistinct] in various parts of the country, which in turn have regional centers and cells.
4. The cultural, social, and mobilization branch.
5. The branch of education and trade unions, which in turn is divided into three bureaux:

—The bureau for the university, which is directly linked to the Tunisian General Union of Students [pro-Ennahdha, recently disbanded and dissolved by the regime].
—the executive bureau.
—the trade unions bureau.

The minister noted that in the event of tension and escalation, the centers and cells develop into so-called action committees. As for the second part of the structural organization, it is called the special organ, and it has a purely secret nature. This organ is set up on a fundamental idea, which is: There is no idea [as heard] without power. This special organ was set up in 1988, after the release of the leaders of the Ennahdha movement, sentenced in 1987, and the release of the so-called Security Group [terrorist group discovered in early 1988]. The organ was set up on a proposal by Mohamed

Chamam, who took it upon himself to control it, to choose his aides for this purpose, and to define the tasks of the organ.

The special organ became active in parallel with the usual organizational structures, and its task is essentially to gather information from various positions, particularly the apparatuses of security, the Army and others by planting itself in them by recruiting some of their employees, to enable the movement to make the appropriate decisions, and to carry out its plan aimed at undermining the regime in the country.

This organ is divided into four grand committees:

1. The Committee of Central Intelligence, set up on a proposal by Mohamed Chamam, and in agreement with Sadok Chourou. This committee has two cells:

—the information cell, under the control of Samir Hannachi, which has security, military, political, and civil sources.

—the sports and training cell, under the control of Youssef Bouthelja, which has training groups in various regions. These groups were being prepared to be sent to Afghanistan to get intensive training on all types of individual, heavy and medium weapons, and in planting explosives and carrying out assassinations.

2. The General Follow-Up Committee which deals with administrative contact with those who control the regions, and with the national scene: parties, organizations, associations, and information media in order to secure the services of some elements from them.

3. The Sports and Training Committee which deals with recruits who had practiced karate.

4. The Security and Army Committee, set up on a proposal made by Mohamed Chamam, and under his control, in order to provide cadres for those elements who are affiliated to, or sympathizing with the so-called Ennahdha movement, from among the men of the Army, the police, the National Guard, and the Customs Service.

It transpires from this general structuring of the so-called Ennahdha movement that there was a dual existence, an open organization and a secret one, with in parallel, a duality in responsibilities, and a duality between the leadership inside the country and the leadership abroad. [passage omited]

Policemen Allegedly Involved

LD2205141891 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Twelve fundamentalists belonging to the Ennahda movement in Tunisia have been given heavy prison sentences, including seven for life, for having attacked premises belonging to the ruling party and murdering one of its guards.

Moreover, our correspondent in Tunisia, Ridha Boughezi, told us that the Tunisian interior minister mentioned this morning in a news conference the existence of a wide-ranging plot against the state fomented by the Ennahda Islamic movement. According to the authorities, the plot was planned for next October. Three hundred people, including 100 military men, were arrested as well as policemen and customs officers who were recruited, according to the interior minister, by the Ennahda movement.

Ennadha Leader Refutes Allegations

LD2305100491 Paris Radio France International in French 0530 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Here follows the first reaction of the leader of the Tunisian Islamic fundamentalists whom the government yesterday again accused of plotting to establish an Islamic republic. This time, things are reported to have gone quite far. The Ennahdha movement, acting on secret instructions, is actually reported to have infiltrated the Armed Forces, the judiciary, and the Customs Service. It seems that it has a plan to increase acts of violence, obliging the authorities to call on the Armed Forces. The Tunisian interior minister indicated that 300 people have been arrested in connection with this case. They include 100 military men, among whome are several officers. In the opinion of Rached Ghannouchi, the chairman of Ennahdha, these accusations are a series of lies.

[Begin Ghannouchi recording] I defy them to prove these allegations to the Tunisian people and international public opinion, in the course of a properly conducted trial. Ben Ali's regime has its back to the wall. His intelligence services have hatched a full scenario to guarantee that they obtain total and final control of society. [end recording]

So this is the first exclusive reaction of the Islamic fundamentalist leader, who was speaking to Christopher Boisbouvier. Rached Ghannouchi, like several other leaders of the Ennahdha movement, lives in exile. The Tunisian interior minister asserted that these leaders of the Islamic movement are using friendly and brotherly countries as centers for their activities. The minister mentioned Algiers and Paris in particular.

The Tunisian authorities are therefore determined to deal severely with Islamic fundamentalists. Seven of them have been given life sentences for attacking premises belonging to President Ben Ali's party and for the murder of a guard at these premises.

Kuwait

Premier Comments on Rebuilding, Oil Fires, Ties

PM2205135591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 May 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, by Ghazi al-Jasim in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jasim] Your Highness, Heir Apparent, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a catastrophe that afflicted our country and people and wreaked large-scale devastation on our economy's infrastructure.

Your Highness, Heir Apparent, how will the new government make a start, and what are the government's programs and your priorities vis-a-vis the rebuilding process?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I would like to say that there are many plans ahead of the government. The government's fundamental tasks are to speed up the process of extinguishing the fires, speed up the completion of power and water stations, and to repair the buildings damaged as a result of the brutal Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Many ideas are under consideration.

[Al-Jasim] How can we describe what happened on 2 August, and is it possible to avoid a repetition of the catastrophe?

[Shaykh Sa'd] What happened was a brutal aggression against our country. The events of 2 August accentuate the Baghdad regime's aggressive intentions in a way that contradicts the justifications and pretexts mentioned by the head of the that regime, especially as it had been agreed to discuss the issues at bilateral meetings in Jeddah, where the first meeting was held, and then in Baghdad. A third meeting was then to have been held. However, a few hours after the Jeddah meeting we—and the world, too—were surprised by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait involving hundreds of thousands of troops and thousands of tanks, artillery pieces, aircraft, and missiles.

Anyone who followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait must have seen the plunder, looting, destruction, and executions carried out by the brutal forces. This is in addition to the torture of citizens. The Iraqi authorities did not observe its neighbor's rights and the agreements and promises we had heard from the Iraqi regime. In no way—whatever the differences between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi authorities—can Iraq invade Kuwait. We all have learned many lessons from that invasion. We have benefited from that bitter experience. The people of Kuwait paid a heavy price for rejecting the Iraqi invasion, refusing to cooperate with the Iraqi authorities, and refusing to normalize relations with the enemy. With the help of Almighty God, the friends, and the brothers, Kuwait was liberated, legitimacy was restored, and the Kuwaiti people have returned to their country.

As a result of that lesson, we must all cooperate and work together harmoniously to build our country in all fields, safeguard our beloved homeland, and pass on this trust to the next generation so it in turn will safeguard it like its fathers and grandfathers did and like we have done. The second lesson we have learned from the invasion is to strengthen our relations with the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council states and to increase cooperation with them in all fields. This is out of our belief that stabilizing and establishing security in this region depends principally on the peoples of the region and on more cooperation with our brothers and friends. We should be very cautious and vigilant not to allow any state to interfere in our internal affairs, directly or indirectly.

[Al-Jasim] Your Highness, Heir Apparent, a few days ago you inspected the oil well fires. How do you view the present situation, and how will the fires affect Kuwait's reserves? How long will it take to extinguish the fires and restore production to levels that would meet local and foreign demand?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I found that it was essential for me and the brother ministers to visit the wells that are burning as a result of the Iraqi aggression. There I heard a complete explanation from the brothers in charge of the process of extinguishing the fires. They explained the formulas adopted by officials there and designed to intensify work concerning the fire-fighting process, namely by opening the door to the experts and technicians of fraternal and friendly states to work with us and help us extinguish the fires by applying modern techniques. In fact, I am satisfied with the efforts being made by Oil Ministry and Petroleum Authority officials. We wish them all success in their responsibilities.

[Al-Jasim] But Your Highness, Heir Apparent, is there a specific deadline for extinguishing the fires?

[Shaykh Sa'd] That depends on the type of well involved. Some wells can take no more than a few days or a week at the most to extinguish. Others may require more than a week or two. The question of extinguishing the fires is not important to technicians and experts. As far as they are concerned, the difficulties arise after the fires have been extinguished. The problem confronting them after the fires have been extinguished is that of preventing the leakage of oil as a result of the destruction inflicted on the wells by the Iraqi forces.

[Al-Jasim] Following the invasion of Kuwait, most Kuwaiti newspapers emigrated. When will the Kuwaiti press return to its readers?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I read a statement by the information minister in which he says that the Kuwaiti press will resume its activities in the near future, and I share the information minister's view in that regard.

[Al-Jasim] There has recently been a big media clamor about the Palestinians' conditions in Kuwait. What truth is there in what has been said?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Authoritative Kuwaiti circles have already clearly and frankly replied to the unjust campaigns launched against the State of Kuwait that claim that it tortured the Palestinians. From my position I deny these rumors. I was visited by a Palestinian delegation from the Palestinian brothers residing in Kuwait, and they denounced the unjust campaigns launched by the foreign media.

They also registered their condemnation of the Palestinian and non-Palestinian elements that supported and backed the Iraqi forces. I was told that as a result of the Palestinians' fear, many wanted to leave Kuwait. So I asked the interior minister to open the door to any one of them who wishes to travel. You will be astonished if I tell you that those who registered their names and departed do not exceed 100 people. So how can we reconcile the claim that many Palestinians would like to leave Kuwait as a result of their fear and the fact that a minority—not more than a 100 of them—have left Kuwait for personal reasons.

Previously we have invited international organizations to visit Kuwait and acquaint themselves closely with the conditions. This does not mean, however, that we allow anyone, whatever his nationality, to travel if we have evidence and information that he played a prominent role in dealing with the Iraqi forces. These will be investigated and referred to the judiciary.

[Al-Jasim] Your Highness, Heir Apparent, how do you view the subject of the arms left behind by the Iraqi forces, especially as some of these arms have gotten into the hands of some citizens?

[Shaykh Sa'd] After the early hours of our country's liberation, the Kuwaiti Armed Forces removed these arms from the roads, squares, public places, and schools. We found tens of thousands of items and explosives. All these have been removed. The Kuwaiti forces are still moving these arms into army depots. I call on every citizen who is earnestly enthusiastic for his homeland not to hesitate to notify the nearest police station if he finds a quantity of arms somewhere.

As for the arms that are in people's hands, there is legislation governing this matter. The interior minister will open a register for those who hand over their arms and will grant licenses under the law regulating this matter. The interior minister has also issued a decision on regulating this question. I call on all citizens to respond to that decision.

[Al-Jasim] Your Highness, Heir Apparent, do you believe that Saddam Husayn's remaining in power in Iraq represents future threats to the region? Are there guarantees that no similiar foolish actions will occur, especially as there are rumors about Iraqi deployments on the borders?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I would like to begin by answering the last part of the question and say that these rumors are baseless. That rumor is circulated by the fifth column group to create a kind of concern and fear among the ranks of my brother citizens with a view to fragmenting our internal front. I urge my brother citizens not to listen to these tendentious allegations.

As for the answer to the first part of the question, which deals with the Iraqi president's remaining in power in Iraq, I say that the concern will continue as long as the head of the regime is in power.

As for his continuing in power, this question is left to the Iraqi people.

[Al-Jasim] The people's conference in Jeddah was a Kuwaiti popular demonstration in the face of the aggression. Does the government believe that there is now a need to hold similar conferences to tackle the problems of rebuilding?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The world witnessed a Kuwaiti gathering in Jeddah in October. That conference reflected unanimity, unity of ranks, and unity of action for the sake of liberation. After that conference we translated the slogans and words into tangible action. Everyone admired this small people's steadfastness, cohesion, and commitment to the liberation of Kuwait, to legitimacy, and to the expulsion of the aggressor.

[Al-Jasim] How will the government tackle the subject of non-Kuwaiti workers?

[Shaykh Sa'd] There are many, many ideas and plans before the government. They are now being studied by the specialized committees. For example, the housing plan, as well as economic, social, security, informational, and political conditions—which are all important matters—are being studied by the committees and will be presented to the government within the next few days. We have started to prepare a government plan that includes our policy in all spheres. I would like everyone to take a look at the government's program.

[Al-Jasim] The United Nations specified the subject of demarcating the borders between Kuwait and Iraq. How will this be carried out in practice and on the grounds of reality?

[Shaykh Sa'd] It has been agreed to form a five-man committee comprising a representative of the State of Kuwait, a representative of Iraq, and three UN representatives. We understand that the first meeting will be held in New York Wednesday to discuss that committee's meetings and the venues for its future sessions. We are committed to the need to implement what is mentioned in all the Security Council resolutions, especially the resolution concerning the border question.

[Al-Jasim] Your Highness, Heir Apparent, what are the foundations on which our foreign policy will be based in the future?

[Shaykh Sa'd] You are maybe aware of the positions of some of the Arab states that blessed and backed the Iraqi

invasion. They also supported it politically, economically, and militarily. What is required of us is to reconsider our policies in accordance with the interests of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Leaves for Saudi Arabia, Egypt

JN1905135891 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] With God's help and protection, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God protect him, left the country for Riyadh this afternoon on a three-day official visit to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He will then pay an official visit to the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt. [passage omitted]

His majesty is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Sayf Bin-Hamad Bin-Sa'ud, minister of the Sultani Court; General 'Ali Bin-Majid al-Ma'mari, minister of presidential office affairs; Dr. 'Umar Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, the sultan's adviser for foreign contacts; and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Qatar

UAE Minister on Damascus Declaration, Solidarity

JN2105205991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Doha, 21 May (WAKH)—Mr. Rashid 'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has said that the current visit to Qatar by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, is in line with the close brotherly relations between the two countries and the constant cooperation among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

At a news conference for Qatari media today, he said the visit, which was preceded by a similar one by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, seeks to strengthen and increase the bonds between the two states. He said the coming phase requires full coordination and cooperation among the GCC countries and needs the vigilance of the region's leaders and people, with a view to establishing a security and safety fence so that Gulf and Arab citizens can feel secure and reassured about the future.

He said the presence of Egyptian forces in the UAE is symbolic and part of the cooperation and joint training that has existed before and after the Gulf crisis. He stressed that relations between the UAE and Egypt are excellent, fraternal, and increasingly developing.

About the Damascus Declaration, Mr. Rashid 'Abdallah said it reflects the eight countries' intent to repair the Arab structure and the Arab League and to find means of cooperation. He said the Arab countries should be more committed to the Arab League Charter and regulations, especially after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. He stressed that the Damascus Declaration gave rise to good results and made big strides in genuine cooperation. The declaration, he added, does not seek to hurt any party, but reflects willingness for a new Arab policy in the interest of all the Arabs and on new bases.

On Arab solidarity, he said it should be sound and healthy. Mutual respect and Arab sovereignty and economy should be given precedence over all other considerations, he said.

He said Arab development programs do exist and will be in the interest of all parties provided that brothers show mutual respect. He called on all those who took positions on the Gulf crisis to reconsider these positions and to return to Arab ranks, Arab solidarity, and mutual respect among Arab countries and their people. [sentence as received]

Mr. 'Abdallah said the Arab League is merely a regional grouping for Arab countries. All should rally behind it, and the Arab countries should join forces to find solutions to their main issues, such as the Palestine question, which concerns all Arabs.

He said previous Arab meetings, especially on the Palestine question, were exploited in the ugliest way. Even the Palestinian intifadah was exploited for other purposes, and here lies the responsibility, he said. Afterward, he added, Kuwait was occupied.

Asked about Iran's role in the security arrangements, Mr. Rashid 'Abdallah said Iran is a state in the region and has strong relations of good neighborliness with the region's states. It has a basic role to play in the security arrangements, he said.

He stressed that the resolution of the Palestine question, the restoration of Palestinian rights, and the return of the occupied Arab territories are fundamental issues.

He pointed out international, UN, and Arab resolutions as well as Palestinian initiatives and serious U.S. and Soviet efforts to reach a solution. There is also a Palestinian desire to respond favorably to these efforts, whether in the framework of a regional or international conference, he said. What matters, he added, is to find a just solution to the Palestine question—one based on UN resolutions—so that the Palestinian people can attain their usurped rights.

Saudi Arabia

UK's Defense Secretary Gives News Conference

LD2205195391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 May 91

[Report on news conference with British Defense Secretary Tom King in Riyadh on 21 May]

[Text] Riyadh, 22 May (SPA)—His Excellency British Defense Secretary Tom King has explained that the objective behind his visit to the Kingdom is to meet senior officials, especially in the Saudi Armed Forces, to congratulate them on the victory achieved by the Saudi forces in collaboration with the joint forces in the liberation of Kuwait.

Tom King said at a press conference he held in Riyadh last night: "I have also come to the Kingdom to visit the site where the British forces participated in Operation Desert Storm. I visited Al-Jubayl and inspected the logistical operations related to the British forces."

Tom King explained that his country does not intend to station any forces in the Arab Gulf region and pointed out that no Gulf state wants that. He said: "What we are anxious to do is to support the armed forces in the Gulf states with training, advisory services, and with joint exercises that could include British aircraft."

He stressed that the primary responsibility for Gulf security belongs to the Gulf states themselves and that they are capable of defending themselves while Britain will provide the necessary training. An example of that capability was given by the Saudi forces at Al-Khafji.

Tom King explained that the last batch of British Tornado aircraft will leave Al-Mahraq in Bahrain for Germany as part of the arrangements for British forces in the region.

He added that the British forces' headquarters in the region will be closed down and transferred outside the Kingdom as of this week. He said: "A group will remain in Kuwait, especially those forces responsible for logistical operations, as their task will be to supervise the withdrawal of the forces stationed at Al-Jubayl, a task that will most likely continue until July, while a date for withdrawing the fighting force that will remain alongside the logistical group has not been fixed yet.

The British defense secretary made a digression and said: "The British Navy has been in the Gulf for a long time now and will remain there."

He explained that his country provides every support it can to the Saudi Air Force in accordance with the Al-Yamamah plan and also to the National Guard in other fields. He said that the Al-Yamamah plan is one of balance and that it has a great impact on Saudi-British relations."

Regarding Britain's role in the disarmament process in the region, Tom King explained that his country has for years felt strongly about the sale of arms to any country that it does not trust to ensure that those arms are only used for defensive purposes. He said: "For this reason, for over 10 years the United Kingdom has refused to sell any weapons to Iraq and we believe that it is very important that other countries follow these standards and not sell weapons to people who try to use them for aggressive purposes."

On disarmament, which includes Israel, the British defense secretary said: "The coalition countries, headed by the United States, through U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, have made clear efforts to move steadily toward the establishment of peace in the region and to the holding of an international conference to solve the Palestine question, which is clear to everyone, and we are not providing Israel with any weapons."

In reply to a question about the success of international legitimacy in the liberation of Kuwait and its failure in the process of establishing peace in the Middle East, the defense secretary said: "The comparison between the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is difficult. Israel claims that it occupied the territories to counteract the threat directed against it, while Iraq led an unjustified attack and occupied Kuwait by force, with premeditation and without any warning."

He reaffirmed that his country believes that the UN Security Council resolutions relating to solving the Palestine question must be implemented, that it is time this was done, and that trading land for peace is necessary.

He explained that the international climate is ready for putting pressure on Israel to stop rejecting the UN resolutions after the end of the cold war, but the Iraqi aggression completely changed that trend and focused attention on the liberation of Kuwait instead of putting pressure on Israel to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Tom King described Saddam Husayn as one of God's ugliest creations and said that neither in ancient nor modern history has a ruler exposed his people and the region around him to atrocities and bloodbaths the way Saddam Husayn did to his people and to Kuwait.

He said: "As for the removal of Saddam, the United Kingdom does not believe that its role is to remove Saddam, but his fate will be left to the Iraqi people. Otherwise from the very beginning it would have decided to move to the left then to the right [as received] and invade Iraq. However, this is against international legitimacy."

He stressed that the aim of the operation was to liberate Kuwait, and this liberation was achieved. As for the fate of Saddam, it is in the hands of the Iraqis.

Regarding the role of Iran in the region, the British defense secretary indicated that it has emerged that Iran has a major role to play in the region, both during and after the

conflict. He said: "It is up to the states of the region to define the kind of relations that exist among them."

Ends Visit

LD2205095191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, 21 May 1991 (SPA)—His Excellency British Defense Secretary Tom King and the delegation accompanying him left Riyadh this evening. He was seen off at Riyadh Air Base by Staff General Muhammad Salim al-Hammad, the chief of the General Staff, Mr. Alan Monroe, the British ambassador, Brigadier Michael Smith, the British military attache, and a number of officers from the armed forces.

Intellectuals Demand Reforms in Letter to King

PM2305091891 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 May 91 p 3

[Letter to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz signed by "hundreds of senior ulema, judges, and Saudi Islamist university professors"; "Most Serious Political Document in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's History"]

[Excerpt] In the name of God the merciful the compassionate. Custodian of the two holy mosques, may God grant him success, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you:

This state is characterized by its declaration of the adoption of the Islamic Shari'a. Ulema and counselors constantly give their rulers advice. At this crucial time when everyone has realized the need for change, we find that the most essential thing on which intentions should be focused is to reform the situation that what we are in and that has brought us all these predicaments. To this end we demand that the ruler change the conditions that require reform in the following aspects:

—The establishment of a shura council to decide on internal and foreign affairs (His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz [grand mufti] added here the phrase "in accordance with the Islamic Shari'a" when he supported these demands; they were also supported by His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Salih al-'Uthaymin; the copy submitted to the custodian of the two holy mosques contains this amendment—AL-SHA'B editor's note), a council composed of people from various fields of specialization known for their uprightness and sincerity, that is, totally independent and without any pressures that would affect the council's actual responsibility.

—The referral of all political, economic, administrative, and other regulations and laws to, and their drafting in accordance with, the rules of the Islamic Shari'a, thus eliminating anything that conflicts with them. This must be done by reliable, competent, legitimate committees.

—State officials and representatives both at home and abroad must display good conduct, experience, specialization, sincerity, and honesty. Any breach of these conditions, for whatever reason, constitutes a violation of trust and a fundamental cause of damage to the country's interests and reputation.

—The achievement of justice and equality for all members of society in terms of securing rights and performing duties in full without any favor to the noble or kindness to the weak. The exploitation of influence, whatever its source, the avoidance of duties, and encroaching on the rights of others is a cause of society's fragmentation and the destruction against which the prophet, peace be upon him, warned.

—Proper supervision and monitoring of all officials without exception, especially those holding influential posts, purging state bodies of anyone convicted of corruption or negligence, regardless of any other considerations.

—The establishment of justice in the distribution of public funds among all classes and groups of society; the abolition of taxes; the lowering of charges that place a burden on people; the safeguarding of state resources against waste and exploitation; the allocation of priority in expenditure to urgent needs; the elimination of all forms of monopoly and illicit ownership; the lifting of the ban on Islamic banks; and the purging of public banking establishments of usury, which is a war against God and his messenger and a reason for eliminating the blessing.

—Building a strong, comprehensive army equipped with weapons from various sources, paying attention to the manufacture and development of arms. The army's objective is to defend the country and its holy places.

—Rebuilding the media and all their services in accordance with the information policy adopted by the Kingdom to serve Islam, express society's morals, and enhance its culture, purging them of any conflicts with these objectives and guaranteeing their freedom to spread enlightenment through true news and constructive criticism in accordance with the legitimate rules.

—Building foreign policy to safeguard the nation's interests in isolation from alliances that conflict with the Shari'a, espousing the Muslims' issues, and correcting the embassies' positions to reflect this country's Islamic character.

—Developing religious and da'wah establishments in the country, supporting them with all material and human capabilities, and eliminating all obstacles that prevent them from achieving their aims in an ideal manner.

—Standardizing judicial establishments, granting them real and total independence, extending the judiciary's authority over everyone, and forming an independent body whose task is to follow up implementation of judicial rulings.

—Guaranteeing the individual's and society's rights and eliminating all traces of restriction against people's wills and rights to guarantee human dignity in accordance with the legitimate rules. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Al-'Attas Comments on Constitutional Referendum

JN1805125091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 91

[Telephone interview with Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas in Sanaa by Suhayl Khuri in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Mr. Prime Minister, the referendum on the Constitution of Yemen has ended. What are your impressions of the referendum?

[Al-'Attas] Thank you very much. It is a happy occasion for us to address our brothers in fraternal Jordan through the radio. With God's help and blessings, the referendum in the Republic of Yemen on the unity Constitution has been concluded. This referendum represented a fabulous popular demonstration of not only support for unity, but also determination to maintain and bolster it and build the constitutional and legal state within the framework of laws, regulations, and institutions that fall within the framework of the Republic of Yemen Constitution.

[Khuri] Mr. Prime Minister, what does this process mean for Yemen's political future?

[Al-'Attas] It means a great deal. First, it means that the referendum process lays the first cornerstones for entrenching sound democratic practices. This is the course that the political leadership has chosen to administer political and social life in Yemen in the new era after unity. Democracy is being practiced in its most wonderful light through the process of the referendum. Before the referendum, there were dialogues among the various political forces and national factions that expressed their opinions on the Constitution. Opinions varied and differed regarding this or that article in the Constitution; however, the large-scale popular will was manifested when the people practiced their political rights by saying yes in the referendum on the Constitution, bearing in mind that the Constitution has been set. It is not that the Constitution is not open to change; in fact, the opposite is true. The future will force us to review and amend the Constitution as we build the new unity state. However, this difference in opinion reinforced the determination of the Yemeni people to strengthen the correct and sound bases for democratic practice under which all sectors and classes of the people can participate in building the new Yemeni state in its new era of unity.

[Khuri] Mr. Prime Minister, how does Yemen view the future of Arab action after the foreign ministers' meetings in Cairo and the election of a new secretary general of the Arab League?

[Al-'Attas] We view this with great optimism, because the Arab nation has only one path to safeguard its dignity, self-esteem, and future. This path is unity, responsible rising above [word indistinct], and handling them in a sound and correct manner. Above all else, we should look to the future with great optimism. Our evaluation of the session is that it was good and successful. In general, it was characterized by a spirit that looks to the future. Once again I stress that the Arab nation has no path other than the course of clear and frank dialogue in which all causes are presented clearly with one objective—that of searching for the most correct and sound ways to strengthen Arab solidarity and unity so we can give a prosperous future to our Arab peoples in cooperation with the different peoples and systems. This form of cooperation will enable our Arab nation to use its human and material resources and capabilities in the best manner.

[Khuri] We thank Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

[Al-'Attas] I thank you very much. My greetings to you.

President Salih Gives Unity Anniversary Speech

JN2205102191 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 91

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the first anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen in Sanaa on 21 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessings be on His Prophet. O free brother citizens, makers of the dawn of the eternal Yemeni revolution, makers and protectors of the glory of unity: O faithful sons of Yemen inside and outside: During these bright, historic moments that are crowned with the great victory of unity and with the joys of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, I extend to you in my own name and on behalf of the brother members of the Presidential Council sincere, heartfelt congratulations on this dear occasion, on which we celebrate the first anniversary of Yemeni unity, the strategic goal of our Yemeni people that was achieved on 22 May to crown their long struggle and great sacrifices. This goal was achieved as a result of sincere, faithful, and persistent action by all the masses of the people, who rallied around this national historic achievement and supported all the sincere and continuous efforts to achieve it until it had actually been embodied as a lofty accomplishment. This is a source pride for the Yemeni people and all the sons of our Arab nation. Yes brothers, unity has been achieved, and it was received with the unlimited blessings and support of Yemen, the greater Arab homeland, and all the friends in the world. This is because it was achieved by democratic

and peaceful means, benefiting from all the national and pan-Arab experiments. By any standard, the unity was a prominent historic event in this century. [passage omitted]

What was achieved during the first year of the unity in the development was manifold and great. The most important achievements were those several agreements in the fields of oil, minerals, industry, and agriculture. Several services and development projects have also been carried out, particularly in the remote and poor areas with the objective of making the revolution and unity reach to the citizens. Water, electricity, education, health, telecommunications projects, and the completion of the roads network throughout the Republic gained special interest to meet the basic, immediate needs of the citizens and to reinforce cohesion among all the masses of the people all over the Yemeni homeland. The cornerstones of several important and vital projects will be laid during our people's celebrations on this eternal day. The cost of these projects has reached more than 7.5 billion riyals. On this occasion, we call on the people to contribute to the development fields in continuation of the great past contributions for the sake of the homeland's progress and prosperity. We also invite the Arab and foreign capitals to invest in our country in light of the new investment law in the Republic of Yemen, which provided all opportunities and guarantees with the objective of encouraging investment and creating a comprehensive development that is based on the best exploitation of all the agricultural resources, the livestock and fisheries, and oil and mineral resources. The fact that our good Yemeni soil is promising in all fields calls for optimism. Moreover, the results of oil and mineral exploration are positive and encouraging. This will secure a bright, good, prosperous future for our homeland and people, God willing. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, the current economic circumstances are the result of a group of factors, the most important being the existing imbalance between production and consumption. This is represented by importing most of our needs from outside and by relying on inconstant financial resources, including the resources represented by the remittances of the expatriates, which have been reduced to their lowest levels. Moreover, the recent situation imposed by the Gulf war and the return of more than a million expatriates and the increase of world prices have all reflected negatively on the economic situation in our country. All this requires that the government, including all its bodies and institutions, redouble its efforts to tackle the economic situation, reduce price increases, alleviate citizens' burdens, and improve their living conditions. This can be accomplished through implementing and integrating the economic and administrative program during the new phase. [passage omitted]

Yemeni unity, as a pan-Arab achievement, is an advanced step on the road to Arab unity, a lasting strength to the Arab entity in confrontation of all challenges, and an element of security, peace, and stability in the region. From the beginning, the Republic of Yemen has affirmed its concern to implement all the principles and constants it has declared in its foreign policy and to deal with its neighbors and brothers in the Arab world and other friends in the world in a manner based on equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs. At the same time, our people will continue to be faithful to their pan-Arab and humanitarian commitments and will not relinquish or compromise on their nation's fateful issues—at the head of which is the Palestine question. Our people will continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle until they attain their legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their legitimate and sole representative, the PLO, in a manner allowing them to live in peace, security, and stability away from all actions of treachery, repression, persecution and tyranny that are carried out against them by the Zionist entity.

At a time when we look forward to the role that should be played by the UN Security Council permanent member states in resolving the Middle East crisis, we believe that the key to peace and stability in the region is a just solution to the Palestine question. Credibility in this regard will be confirmed by all the sides' determination to hold an international conference for peace to implement the international legitimacy without absurdity or double standards. If this is to be achieved, then a new history filled with justice and peaceful coexistence and reinforced by security and stability would begin in the region, which has long suffered conflicts, wars, disturbances, and instability.

O masses of our Arab nation: the regrettable events experienced by our nation as a result of the Gulf crisis and differences of positions and views necessitate that we all, as sons of the one nation, rise above all the wounds left by the Gulf crisis, and overcome their repercussions with a spirit that is concerned with safeguarding the nation's interests. It is an occasion on which we reiterate our call on all brothers in the Arab homeland to work sincerely to heal the rift, restore Arab solidarity, and lay down new foundations for inter-Arab relations based on frankness, cooperation, integration, and joint concern for ending estrangement, mending fences, and forgetting the events of the recent past. The correct prelude to this is to have the Arab nation's higher interests as our judge and to agree on a sound view that will enable us to get rid of all the causes and factors that led our Arab nation and the relationships between its countries to this current painful and regrettable situation that serves only the enemies of the nation. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani, Besharati Discuss Gulf Security

LD2205212391 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Tehran-Sanaa relations and the Persian Gulf situation were discussed in a meeting between Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister

'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani in Sanaa Tuesday. The two sides emphasized the need for continuing bilateral cooperation within the framework of the joint economic commission. Besharati and al-Iryani also stressed that the security of the Persian Gulf region must be provided by the regional states without any outside interference or any foreign presence. They also underlined the need for broadening mutual economic ties. Besharati is in Sanaa for the ceremonies marking the first anniversary of merging of the two Yemens.

Salih, Iraq's Ramadan Discuss Arab Developments

JN2305114091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Sanaa, 23 May (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, received Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, and his delegation, here last night.

Mr. Ramadan conveyed the greetings and congratulations of President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people to Chairman Salih and the leadership and people of Yemen. President Saddam wished the Yemeni people progress and prosperity under the shadow of their national unity.

They discussed fraternal bilateral relations and ways to deepen and promote them. Chairman Salih and Mr. Ramadan also evaluated current Arab situations, Arab and international developments, and necessary common Arab efforts to serve Arab issues.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid, council member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Mr. Ramadan attended the reception held by Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night on the occasion of the first anniversary of Yemeni unity.

Memos Protest 19-21 May U.S. Overflights

JN2205154191 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations has again protested continued Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. planes.

In a memo to the UN secretary general, the Iraqi delegate said that the U.S. activities for 19-20 May totaled five air sorties, divided into a two-plane formation and a single individual sortie. The planes flew at a speed of 720 km per hour.

The Iraqi delegate said that the flights centered over the eastern and southern areas of the Dahuk Governorate. The flights were on missions of surveillance and harassment, the Iraqi delegate said.

In a similar memo to the UN secretary general, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations protested the continued Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. planes.

The Iraqi delegate said that the U.S. air activities for 20-21 May totaled three individual air sorties. The planes flew at a speed of 820 km per hour. He said the flights centered over northern Mosul and Dahuk. He added that the planes were on missions of surveillance and harassment.

21-22 May Violations Reported

JN2305043691 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace for reconnaissance and provocation. In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations said that on 21-22 May, U.S. aircraft carried out 14 sorties in four two-plane formations and six single sorties. The planes came from Turkish airspace.

He pointed out that the planes, flying at an altitude of 5 to 8 km and a speed of 650 to 950 km per hour, flew mainly over Mosul, Dahuk, and northern Irbil.

UN Resolution 692 'Grievous Violation' of Law

JN2105195491 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations has declared that Security Council Resolution No. 692 on so-called reparations is one of the most serious resolutions to constitute a grievous violation of the rules of international law and justice. In a statement in response to this resolution, he said that the Security Council has turned with the end of the cold war into a tool or an umbrella to give the hue of international legitimacy to the aggressive U.S. policy. He added that, in accordance with its new Resolution No. 692, the Security Council exceeded its powers and those of the International Court of Justice when it gave itself the authority to form a political organ with the power to draw up a general policy for reparations, to determine how to deal with reparations requests and to define the amounts of reparations.

He said: In this resolution, the Security Council has established a political organ that plays the role of adversary, arbitrator, and policeman without following a legitimate basis.

Iraq's representative has drawn the attention of the Council to the fact that the UN Charter established an international judicial organ, which is the International Court of Justice, and defined the legal sources the court uses in judging the cases before it, including reparations in accordance with Article 36, Paragraph 2. On the other hand, the charter gives the Security Council the task of safeguarding world peace and security without according it the judicial authority given to the court in the first place.

Iraq's representative asked: Where has the Council taken this power from? He said: The UN Charter with its 70 articles does not contain a paragraph or a single word that gives the Council such a power. This makes it the first tyrannical international organization above the law and above the principles of international legitimacy.

He noted that Resolution No. 687 stipulates in Paragraph 16 that Iraq is responsible—in keeping with international law—for direct damages and losses. This means that the responsibility and causes should be defined in accordance with the rules and measures approved by international law, not in accordance with the interests and policies of the Security Council's member states.

He declared that the Council contradicted itself when it bound Iraq to pay the reparations in accordance with international law. This is because the Council itself did not abide by international law in defining the range of this framework and the legitimacy of the reparation requests, nor did it allow Iraq the right to express an opinion on the legitimacy of the reparation requests in terms of the principle or the size of the reparations.

He said: The Council also violated the rules of international law when it concentrated on Iraq's responsibility for the damages it claims. Meanwhile, it did not bind the Unites States and its partners in the aggression against Iraq to pay reparations to Iraq as a result of the destruction and damage they inflicted in contravention of all Council resolutions and all Charter articles. This, despite the fact that the damage inflicted on Iraq is hundreds of times greater than the damage inflicted on others.

He noted that out of its awareness of what might come out of the implementation of this resolution—which is planned to impoverish the Iraqi people and control its resources—Iraq has asked to be given a period of five years during which no percentage of its oil revenues will be cut off. He declared that if the Council ignores this

request, it will be ignoring its responsibility to respect human rights, the most important of which is the Iraqi people's right to life.

He also noted another serious element in Resolution No. 692; namely, that by empowering the arbiters to define the ratio to be set aside from Iraq's oil revenues for reparations, the Council gives the United States and its Security Council allies an indirect weapon to control the oil prices and production level of the world's oil. Furthermore, by practically empowering the panel of arbiters to define the ratio to be cut from Iraq's oil revenues, the Council indirectly empowers the panel to define the level of Iraqi oil production. Iraq will have to increase its production to obtain the greatest amount of revenue possible. This will affect the supply and demand in international oil markets and hence the world's oil prices.

He said that by accepting what America and its allies are attempting to impose on Iraq in this regard, the Council is working to destroy OPEC, wrest away its right to sovereignty over its oil resources, and define the prices of its oil and oil byproducts. By imposing on Iraq alone the responsibility for paying reparations for all direct damage and losses, Resolution No. 692 opens the door wide for all the greedy and the covetous and the swindlers to submit all sorts of false, exaggerated demands for compensation for alleged losses. There would be no procedural means of proving their demands and Iraq would not be given the right to prove the illegality of any of these demands or establish the unreasonableness of these amounts of reparation.

The Iraqi representative stated that this abhorrent resolution will only be a document that will place Iraq under the trusteeship of a political body which is neither international nor legal, has no basis in the UN Charter or any international agreement, and has no legal precedent. Yet, this panel enjoys absolute powers that have never been granted to any international organization in UN history.

The representative said that by this decision, the Council has planted a [word indistinct] seed in this body, which cannot last as long as its existence fails to be based on the laws of justice and as long as its actions lead to ruination and destruction in both Iraq and the region.

The statement reviewed the Security Council's inability to carry out its powers and duties, especially with regard to the Arab-Zionist dispute and the Palestinian problem because of the United States' pro-Israel policy. The United States used the veto power against any decision that condemned Israel or attempted to protect the Palestinian people. The statement noted the Security Council's failure to impose its will on Israel and force it to respect international legitimacy and implement the Security Council's 1981 resolution, which placed Israel under an obligation to pay damages to Iraq for the losses sustained as a result of its aggression against Iraq's peaceful nuclear installations.

Yesterday, the Security Council issued Resolution No. 692, establishing a fund for war reparations and explaining the fund's mode of operation. The INA correspondent in New York says the resolution was passed by a majority of 14 votes and the abstention of Cuba. The resolution said that the fund will be run by a committee based in Geneva. The fund's panel will be composed of the current 15 members of the Security Council. The fund will be financed by a percentage of Iraq's oil revenues to be defined by the panel.

Memo to UN Protests Iranian 'Series of Crimes'

JN2205203291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New York, 22 May (INA)—Iraq has officially notified the United Nations of a series of crimes perpetrated by the Iranian regime, crimes that caused the victimization of 138 Iraqi troops who were killed en masse while blindfolded.

In a message to the UN secretary general, 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations, said that Iranian infiltrators brutally killed the Iraqi troops in the Kut al-Sawadi area after they had been blindfolded and pushed to the ground, with their bellies touching the ground, and placed next to one another.

The Iraqi delegate added that examinations of the martyrs showed that the victims sustained extensive injuries to the head and that some bodies had been mutilated by a large knife. The military uniforms of all martyrs were taken off, he said.

The Iraqi delegate added that the Iranians perpetrated this crime in the last week of March, whereas two similar crimes were committed in the area of Kishk al-Basri in the central sector on 14 May. He said that 30 martyrs were killed while blindfolded and with their hands tied. Later, their bodies were dragged to a trench. Meanwhile, another group was killed and the bodies of seven of them remained exposed until they decomposed.

UN Sets Body To Demarcate Border With Kuwait

JN2205204391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] United Nations, 22 May (INA)—It was officially announced here today that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has set up a five-man committee to demarcate the borders between Iraq and Kuwait.

The UN secretary general sent a letter to the Security Council president informing him of his decision to set up the committee under the chairmanship of former Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusuma-atmajda and the membership of Iyan Rock of the Swedish survey department [name and title as received], William Robertson, executive head of the New Zealand survey and

lands department [name and title as received], Iraq's representative Riyad al-Qaysi, and Kuwait's representative Tariq Razzuqi.

It has been learned that Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn addressed a letter to the UN secretary general and the Security Council president on 6 April in which he described UN Resolution No. 687 as unfair and a dangerous precedent in the international organization because it encroaches on states' sovereignty.

The foreign minister asserted in his letter that the Security Council violated its previous resolutions by imposing new conditions on Iraq, noting that regarding the border issue, the Security Council imposed a specific situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders, while it is known that international law allows for states to determine their own borders because this is the only rule that can achieve the principle of border stability.

The minister also made it clear that the Security Council has violated, through this strange behavior, one of the provisions of Resolution 660, which formed the basis for subsequent resolutions issued by the Security Council. The third paragraph of Resolution 660 calls on Iraq and Kuwait to solve their differences through negotiations and that the border issue, as is known, is one of the major differences.

Health Minister, UNDP Official View Sanctions

JN2205172791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id today discussed with Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Nur, assistant secretary general of the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], the possibility of lifting the food and medical blockade enforced on Iraq.

The health minister urged the United Nations to contribute to the reconstruction of hospitals and health centers damaged by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the acts of rioting and sabotage.

The minister added that the aggression targeted Iraq's infrastructure. He went on to say: Water plants, sewers, and piping systems were destroyed. This caused the spread of numerous epidemics and diseases, including cholera.

The minister said that more than 4 million Iraqi children under five are currently suffering from a lack of baby milk, medicine, and other necessary requirements.

'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id asked the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee to allow Iraq to use its assets frozen abroad to purchase medicine, laboratory equipment and solutions, and necessary medical requirements.

Saddam Congratulates Yemen on Unity Anniversary

JN2305085491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the declaration of unity between the two parts of Yemen.

The cable contained the following:

It gives us great pleasure to take the opportunity of the first anniversary of the declaration of unity between the two parts of Yemen and to participate in the celebrations of this occasion, which is dear to the hearts of all honorable Arabs.

In the name of Iraq and in our name personally, we send your excellency our sincerest congratulations and best and most honest fraternal feelings. We wish you personally and your colleagues at the Presidential Council and the Government of Yemen much health and happiness, and the fraternal Yemeni people greater progress, glory, and prosperity. We also wish deep roots, firmness, and strength for Yemeni unity. We ask God, the almighty, to guide your steps and protect your actions on behalf of the interests of the ancient Yemeni people and the glorious Arab nation.

Envoy Rebuts Human Rights Groups Assertions

JN2105093891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0814 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] New York/United Nations, 21 May (INA)—Iraq's representative at the second social committee of the Economic and Social Council has accused the countries that shed tears over what they claim to be violations of human rights in Iraq of being the same countries that participated in the brutal military aggression against Iraqi citizens.

In his response to the Luxembourg and French representatives' claims in the committee, he affirmed that these states participated militarily in the aerial bombardment of civilians over a period of more than 40 days.

He added that the states of aggression have also destroyed houses, hospitals, bridges, and telephone departments; killed women and children; and are now continuing their aggression through the economic blockade to prevent medicines, food, and even children's vaccines from reaching Iraqi civilians.

Iraq's representative said that such states that claim to be concerned about human rights must raise their voices and lift the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqis in order to end the suffering of women and children instead of setting unreasonable and unacceptable conditions.

Jordanian Industrialists Agree To Increase Trade

JN2105152291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—Two delegations representing the Iraqi Industries Union, headed by the Union's Secretary General Talal Tal'at, and Amman Chamber of Industry, headed by the Chamber's Deputy Chairman Walid al-Khatib, have agreed to increase their trade and industrial activity to boost national economy in the two fraternal countries.

During their meeting today, the two delegations agreed to expand their similar activities in the fields of industry and trade and to promote bilateral relations.

It should be noted that the Amman Chamber of Industry delegation arrived in Iraq at the beginning of the week to deliver relief food and medicine to the Iraqi people, who are being subjected to an unjust economic blockade.

Benefit of New Moscow-Beijing Relations Doubted

JN2105150491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0759 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has expressed doubts that the expected positive relations between Moscow and Beijing will be reflected in greater support for liberation movements, antagonism against the imperialist policies, or support for oppressed nations.

AL-THAWRAH said, analyzing the visit by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, to the Soviet capital last week that the events in the Gulf and the role played by the two countries during those events do not change one fact, which is that principled stands no longer prevail in Soviet and Chinese dealings with world events or peoples' causes.

It added that what has pushed the two sides into normalizing their relations is their joint desire to bury the bitter past and to concentrate on their internal problems, improve their situation, and strengthen their economic structure.

AL-THAWRAH says the Soviet Union wants to revive its weak economy and decrease the load on its budget of its military forces and armed masses along the border with China, in addition to its fear of the developing relations between Washington and Beijing.

It said that China, in return, wants stability along its border to take advantage of Soviet experience to develop its factories that were built by the Soviet Union in the fifties and devote time to its objectives in Indo-China.

It focused on the fact that Chinese leader Mao Zedong's death played a large part in decreasing the tension in differences between the two sides, especially ideological ones. It said that the absence of Mao Zedong led to the cancellation of the doctrinal tension between the two countries.

'Arab President' To Pay Price of U.S. Victory

JN2305104091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—The U.S. secretary of state has warned one of the Arab leaders who took part in the coalition against Iraq that after weakening Iraq, his country is no longer capable of dictating conditions from a position of strength over the formulas to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an editorial today, AL-THAWRAH reveals that Baker told this Arab president that "after the weakening of Iraq, your country has lost its strategic depth."

The paper ridicules the Arab president's position and says: All Arabs, their rulers included, are required to sooner or later pay the price for the U.S. victory, even if they were partners in the conspiracy against Iraq and the nation.

AL-THAWRAH draws the attention of those who tried to curry favor with the White House by becoming hostile to Iraq to the United States' explanation and assessment of their position. The paper says: Taking part in the aggression against Iraq is not an amulet that some people can put around their necks to make the United States approve of all of their conduct, whims, and hopes in an attempt to appear as nationalistic to erase the marks left on them by their bowing to the foreigner, submitting to his will, and conspiring against the nation's present and future.

The paper expresses sorrow because those who allied themselves with Washington against Iraq do not want to admit up to now that the primary objective of the aggression was to settle accounts with the Palestinian people's revolution and hopes by destroying Iraq's power. The paper wonders: If the Golan is not part of the settlement deal, and if Israel refuses to give up the West Bank and Gaza, then what justification does this Arab ruler have to sign documents that are being prepared now?

AL-THAWRAH draws the attention of this Arab president to the fact that if he wants to follow in al-Sadat's footsteps, he has to remember that al-Sadat signed the Camp David agreements and regained Sinai but did not ally with the enemies in a military aggression against an Arab country.

Labor Minister Notes War Damage to Ministry

JN2205174391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—The cost of the damage sustained by agencies of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs as a result of the U.S. aggression and riots has been put at 24 million Iraqi dinars, with an exchange rate of one dinar to 3.2 dollars.

In a statement to INA, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak said that the estimate included the damage caused to buildings, furniture, and equipment, as well as the damages paid to those working in private sector plants who stopped working as a result of the aggression.

The minister added that 18 institutes for the handicapped, 11 state homes, five social insurance buildings, nine social care homes, three vocational training centers, 11 social reform homes, and a number of stores in the governorates were damaged as a result of the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against Iraq and the criminal acts perpetrated by mobs.

The minister stated that the value of the vehicles destroyed totaled 2.5 million dinars.

Saddam, Journalists Discuss 'Future Prospects'

JN2305061491 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a group of analysts, thinkers, writers, and journalists.

During the meeting, they discussed and debated various political and media affairs. They also assessed the course of events experienced by our mujahid country and their repercussions on the national, pan-Arab, and international scenes.

In addition, they discussed future prospects in light of the orientation given based on a sound diagnosis and analysis of the events the country witnessed as a result of the 30-state aggression. They also discussed the great role our media institutions played in refuting the falsehoods, lies, and deceptions propagated by imperialist quarters.

The discussions among the leader, media men, and writers in the new Iraq of renaissance and construction were held in an atmosphere marked by frankness, objectivity, and a high sense of responsibility.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi also attended the meeting.

Al-Anbar Notables Pledge Allegiance to Saddam

JN2305062991 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received tribal chieftains, religious scholars, and notables of al-Anbar Governorate.

A number of them spoke in the presence of the leader president. They expressed their love for him and blessed the president's endeavors to start the reconstruction of the homeland in faith, pride, and glory. They also declared that the tribal chieftains, religious scholars, and notables had come to reiterate their allegiance to the president and to say that they would forge ahead under his banner to protect Iraq, safeguard its indepdendence, and realize happiness for its citizens.

Cabinet Discusses State Administration Reforms

JN2205203891 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] At the recommendation of President leader Saddam Husayn, the Council of Ministers discussed today reform of the state's administration. Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told INA that the Council, which was chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, especially emphasized the Government's paperwork and measures connected with the citizens and their interests that require citizens to report to various state departments and the procedures and red tape involved.

The minister reached the conclusion that there is a wide-spread feeling that complications in citizens' paperwork at the state departments and the prolonged red tape creates many problems, the most dangerous of which is creating circumstances conducive to bribery to avoid the red tape, whether by the people who report to these departments or by the state employees themselves.

The minister noted that the Council has decided that each ministry and all departments that are not connected with ministries should hold regular meetings of the heads of their sections to make an inventory of the paperwork in which the citizens are involved, conduct a study of every action done on these papers, and eliminate unnecessary steps and procedures, even if this necessitates canceling redundant sections and parts. In case these measures contravene any central laws, regulations, and directives, the ministry or the department concerned must present proposals to amend these laws, regulations, or directives within a period of one month as of today.

The minister said that the Council emphasized the importance of the media and public opinion learning about the implementation of these measures and giving it the necessary dimensions to create an atmosphere of supervision and guidance in state departments concerning all measures related to the public. He said the Council also approved a number of issues on its agenda, such as the draft law of providing assistance to those who suffered as a result of the 30-state aggression and the acts of vandalism, sabotage, and anarchy. The Council recommended submitting this draft law to the presidential office to be presented to the Revolution Command Council for enactment.

Minister Says Basic Services Restored in Dahuk

JN2205174091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid announced today the fulfillment of the mission assigned to specialized working teams regarding the restoration of basic services in the Dahuk Governorate.

In a statement to INA, the interior minister added that in implementation of His Excellency President Saddam

Husayn's directives, the working teams accomplished the tasks assigned to them in record time. He said that the returning families will find all basic services restored, as food requirements have been secured and electrical, water, telephone, and health services have been restored. He added: Oil supplies and school requirements have been made available; normality has been reestablished there.

Dialogue With Kurds Will Help Entrench 'New Phase'

JN2105093591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the results of the dialogue between a delegation of the Iraqi leadership and a delegation of Kurdish parties, which will be announced within the next few days, will enhance national unity and thwart the enemies' wagers and malicious schemes to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and the dignity of its proud people.

In an editorial published today, the paper adds that the positive results which will come out of the dialogue will effectively and seriously contribute to the entrenchment of the new phase marked by a democratization process to be based on the constitution, the pursuit of a multiparty system, and the establishment of security and stability in the country on firm foundations.

The paper affirms that the success of the dialogue and its attainment of the desired objectives is not only a national accomplishment, but also a historic victory for the Iraqi people's will regarding the achievement of unity. Likewise, this success is a certain defeat for the Iraqis' ambitious and rancorous imperialist enemies.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the return of thousands of Kurdish refugees to their homeland undoubtedly embodies our Kurdish people's adherence to their Iraqi identity, their love for their homeland, and their deep faith in its unity. The paper affirms that this return will largely contribute to the defeat of the schemes of aggression and conspiracy and foil the plans of our people's enemies.

Concluding, the paper stresses that the success of the dialogue proves anew the credibility of Iraq's leadership and its seriousness to establish the new political frameworks necessitated by the new phase and the requirements for implementing its comprehensive national program. This constructive dialogue is further confirmation of the leadership's concern to bolster the autonomous rule experiment and to develop it so that it can play a basic role in entrenching national unity from a humanitarian pan-Arab viewpoint.

Returning Kurdes Express 'Loyalty' to Saddam

JN2205111991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Several Kurdish families who have returned to the Governorate of Dahuk have condemned the foreign intervention in Iraq's internal affairs and the attempts to damage national unity.

In statements to INA, these families expressed their loyalty and commitment to great Iraq and its historic leader, President Saddam Husayn.

They expressed their joy at returning to the homeland and contributing toward rebuilding it, rather than being homeless and lost.

The returning families affirmed that President Saddam Husayn's order to reinstitute basic services to the governorate is another piece of evidence of the leadership's concern for and continuing interest in all the sons of Iraq.

100,000 Refugees Reportedly Return From Bakhtaran

JN2105160791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Al-'Amarah, 21 May (INA)—Yesterday, 36 families made up of 280 people from among those who were forced by the cliques of the riffraff and infiltrators to leave their towns for the Iranian border returned to Maysan Governorate. The returnees said they were proud of their homeland, Iraq, whose pride and dignity the aggressors aim to encroach upon. Governmental departments have provided all the food and medical needs of the returnees.

IRNA yesterday said that 100,000 Iraqis, the majority of whom are Kurds, who had sought refuge in the Iranian Province of Bakhtaran, have actually returned to Iraq and that another 100,000 have said they want to return.

UNIFIL Denies IDF Buildup in North

TA2005160791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Lebanese radio stations report IDF [Israel Defense Forces] concentrations in the security zone in southern Lebanon, but UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that UN observers did not discern any irregular movement by military forces.

Nave, UN Deny Troops Massing

TA2205171291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1642 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Commenting on the CBS report about the massing of 2,000 Israeli troops and tanks on the northern border, Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said that there has been no significant change in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in the North. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 22 May quotes Nave as saying the CBS report "is untrue."]

[Earlier in the Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew program Hayim Hecht, the correspondent in the North says that "no reaction to the CBS report could be obtained from the IDF." He adds that "the spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon today issued a statement asserting that UN observers have not noticed any extraordinary troop movements in South Lebanon."]

reportage on Reaction to Baker Statements

Sharon 'Shocked'

TA2305054791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem reject U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's remarks that the settlements are the obstacle to peace. The sources told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the settlements are not up for discussion at this stage and that they are not linked to Baker's efforts to convene a regional meeting which will begin direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs. They stressed that the settlements are one of the issues to be discussed only at the end of the political process.

Minister Ari'el Sharon said that he was shocked by Baker's remarks on settlements: We take the secretary of state's statements seriously, but he must know that there is no need to preach to us about peace.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 23 May in a page 2 report by Tzvi Gilat quotes Minister Sharon as saying with regard to Baker's statement: "I waited, thinking that perhaps he might say that the main obstacle to peace is the annexation of Lebanon, the arms race, the massacre of the Kurds, or the strengthening of Saddam Husayn, but not a single word. There is only one obstacle: Jewish settlement." The report also quotes Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the prime minister's bureau, as saying: "Israel does not initiate settlements, but it also does not stop them. We do not have a deliberate settlement policy, but there are also no restrictions. We explained our position to Baker. We know this is something on which there is no agreement between us and the Americans, and that is apparently how the situation will remain."]

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi said that Secretary Baker knows full well that his mission failed because of the Arabs' rejectionism. There is nothing simpler than to put the blame on the Jews. We were blamed for the Crucifixion of Jesus, and we are used to such things, Ze'evi said.

Ben-Aharon Interviewed

TA2305053391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 May 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by anchorman Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] [Zissowitz] Now that we have heard James Baker's remarks, was it a wise political move to set up the settlements of Revava and Talmon Bet prior to his arrival here?

[Ben-Aharon] The timing was not the important thing. The U.S. Administration knows that Israel has a settlement policy in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The question of timing is marginal and cannot influence something so important as the peace process.

[Zissowitz] James Baker referred to the timing in his remarks yesterday.

[Ben-Aharon] That is correct, he said the timing upset him. The Arab states may have referred to the timing in order to divert attention from their hard-line position on the process itself.

[Golan] It might therefore have been wiser not to hand them that card.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know if that is true. I do not think we should fall into that trap and concentrate on something that really is not the main issue. We reached peace with Egypt despite the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. As the prime minister has repeatedly explained to President Bush and Secretary Baker, that is not the obstacle and we should not concentrate on that issue, because it is inconceivable that a Jewish state will prevent Jews from settling in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Zissowitz] How do you explain James Baker's remarks? Is he mistaken? Is he taking a deliberate anti-Israeli stand?

[Ben-Aharon] No, no, under no circumstances do I want to characterize his statements in negative terms. We have had many hours of talks with the secretary, and we saw that the man is a talented attorney who is investing

a great deal of personal effort in trying to bridge the differences between the sides. I believe, however, that he might have underestimated the importance of the outstanding issues that remain between us and Syria. Syria—and perhaps the other Arab states, including Egypt, to our great regret—is insisting on an ongoing conference in which the United Nations will have a role. These are two issues which are not marginal, because an ongoing conference means that the dialogue, the negotiations, the process of free give-and-take, which is so essential to the achievement of a settlement between us and our neighbors, will be nullified due to that international forum which will continue to exist and to which the Arabs will turn whenever there is a crisis or deadlock in the negotiations. It is very easy to create a crisis or deadlock in negotiations on such sensitive issues. That means that the international conference and not the direct negotiations will determine the issues.

[Golan] But if we return for a moment to Baker's remarks on the settlement issue, even if there are direct negotiations, the settlement issue, in the U.S. or Arab view, can become the same obstacle.

[Ben-Aharon] I say that if our neighbors really want peace, they will agree to direct negotiations, and in direct negotiations they can raise any issue. Settlements and a settlement freeze was also raised in Camp David.

[golan] In direct negotiations would Israel be prepared for a settlement freeze?

[Ben-Aharon] No, direct negotiations will be conducted by the government running the State of Israel at the time, and it will have to cope with anything put on the negotiating table. I am not presently negotiating either with you or with our neighbors, because they still do not agree to sit with us around the table.

[Golan] But you say that everything is open to negotiation, and Baker says that the settlements are actually creating facts concerning the end of the process.

[Ben-Aharon] He did not say that, as far as I heard him. President Bush said something in that vein. In voicing its criticism, the U.S. Administration does not explain its opposition to the settlements, because had it become involved in such a debate, I believe we would have had the upper hand, because what it really means is that we, the State of Israel, must keep those territories free of Jews until there is a settlement. In other words, we would be signaling to the Arab world that that territory, which was once under Jordanian occupation, remains purely Arabic, and not a single Jew can settle there until there are negotiations. This would mean that we are giving up the territory even before negotiations. It would also mean that even if, God forbid, we give up that land, it will be Arab land with a purely Arab population, and Jews will never be able to live there, just as Jews cannot now live on the other side of the Jordan River, and who knows what will happen to the fate of those poor Jews who have remained in the Arab states. That is something inconceivable.

Ben-Aharon Says Baker 'Hoodwinked'

TA2305111091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, says the settlement issue is a marginal one and Secretary of State Baker ought to have criticized the Arab countries for intransigence on the main issues of the peace process. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Ben-Aharon said Baker admitted in his talks in Israel that the Arab countries refused to end the state of belligerency or the economic boycott of Israel. In Ben-Aharon's view, Secretary Baker allowed himself to be hoodwinked by Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad over the treatment of the Jewish minority in Syria.

[Begin Ben-Aharon recording] Syria was far from cooperative in agreeing to the basic outlines of Baker's proposals, which is really the obstacle to any progress. If Syria is not involved, is not inside the process, this would in itself place Jordan, that is another potential partner to the peace process, in a difficult situation. These are the gut issues, which we believe should have been addressed over and above another issue, which we also regret in the statement by Secretary Baker pertaining to the Jews of Syria.

President al-Asad is such a master of deception he deceived even President Carter some 15 years ago, when he led him to believe that he would adopt a more positive policy toward the Jewish community in Syria, and especially those unfortunate women who want to leave the country to get married and establish a family outside. Apparently, President al-Asad succeeded to do the same with Secretary Baker and led him to believe that he will be forthcoming and will enable Jewish women to leave. There are some 200 or so women who cannot marry, and this is one of the most cruel aspects of the Syrian policy vis-a-vis the Jews of Syria. Here, we would have expected some word of criticism on the part of Secretary Baker to this totalitarian regime and the way it is treating the Jewish minority. [end recording]

Levi on Peace Process, Syrian Presence in Lebanon

TA2205093491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 91

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Israel has done its utmost "to give peace a chance" during conversations with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Foreign Minister David Levi told the Knesset yesterday. He added that it was untrue Baker left Israel "angry" after his fourth visit.

Replying to two opposition motions for the agenda about the visits of Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, which were referred to the foreign affairs and defense committee, Levi said, "A number of understandings were attained and the burden of proof now rests on the Arab states."

He said the U.S., the Soviet Union, the European Community and certain Arab countries were now engaged in activities "designed to make it possible to seize the historic opportunity. This process is still in full stride. We must have patience."

Neither Baker nor Bessmertnykh had laid blame on Israel, he said. In fact, the two "are convinced that they are now engaged in a process which will lead to a change in the situation."

He said that what Syria is doing in Lebanon "inevitably causes us concern, as do its efforts to obtain advanced weapons, including missiles.

"The threats we hear from Damascus cast a deep shadow on Syria's readiness for peace. We prefer not to respond to threats with threats. But we have to keep our eyes open and be cautious for the sake of our security."

Levi hinted that Israel had asked the U.S. to use its influence with the Syrian government. "Certain things are being done, and we hope they will succeed. We have no interest in the tension continuing, because it could well lead to an adventure. We would like to believe that the efforts being made are not in vain." [passage omitted]

Says No Restraint if Syria Threatens

TA2205163491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Israel is watchfully monitoring Syria's moves in Lebanon, its rapid arms procurement, and its extreme declarations, all of which imply a threat against Israel. Those remarks were made by Foreign Minister David Levi in a meeting with his Portuguese counterpart today.

Levi added that Israel hopes that hidden behind Syria's declarations is a realistic Syrian policy that will prevent it from carrying out acts of aggression. Israel will not restrain itself for a single moment and will not curb its actions if weapons threatening its territory are employed, said Minister Levi.

Arens Concerned Over Syrian-Lebanese Accord

TA2205122791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that Israel takes a very serious view of the special relations agreement signed by Syria and Lebanon. Defense Minister Arens convened a news conference on the northern border, after a debate that lasted several hours with the commander of the Northern Command, senior Israeli Army officers in the area, and South Lebanese Army commander Antoine Lahd.

Arens pointed out that the fact that he drove all the way north to hold a special discussion about the new situation attests to the severity with which Israel sees the Syrian-Lebanese agreement.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht quotes Minister Arens as saying that Syria has actually swallowed Lebanon up and that Hafiz al-Asad has done in his own way exactly what Saddam Husayn did to Kuwait. Syria has increased its control over Lebanon in the past few weeks. Hizballah and PLO troops have recently moved to southern Lebanon under Syrian auspices, and this new situation definitely endangers Israel, Arens said. We will under no circumstances whatsoever allow a return of the threat to the northern settlements, the defense minister asserted. He refused to reply to a question as to whether Israel had moved troops to the northern border, but he noted that PLO and Hizballah people approaching the security zone would be taking a risk. According to him, at this time it is not necessary to issue messages to the Syrians about our red lines because they have known Israel's position for a long time.

He disclosed that in the past few days Israel had discussed the new situation with the U.S. Administration and had relayed its concern to Washington.

Comments on Treaty

TA2205195291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1845 GMT 22 May 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Ronen] Good evening, Mr. Defense Minister.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Ronen] Mr. Arens, the Syrian-Lebanese treaty has only ratified the de facto situation that has existed for many years, in which Lebanon was a Syrian satellite, a Syrian protegee. Why, then, are you so concerned with the fact that a long-existing situation has been legalized?

[Arens] First of all, that is not exactly true. The present Syrian grip on Lebanon, which was ratified by today's treaty, did not exist in the past. Although for many years Lebanon lacked a central government capable of ruling over the entire Lebanese territory, there were various militias: Druze, Christian, Shiite, Sunni, and other. The Syrians did have control over al-Biqa', but not over the other parts of Lebanon.

[Ronen] And today? Do you detect worrying signs of a Syrian design to change the situation for the worse, from our viewpoint?

[Arens] There are two things that should worry, though not frighten, us—things to which we should give thought. First, in the wake of the treaty, which includes the disbanding of the Christian, Druze, and Shiite militias, terrorist organizations—Hizballah and the PLO—have begun to move southward, bringing their weapons. In addition, we are aware of a rise in the number of attempted infiltrations into the security zone and Israel, which threaten the calm that has prevailed in northern Israel for the past nine years, since the Lebanon war. We will not tolerate any deterioration in that situation.

Second, the treaty allows the Syrians to deploy their troops, albeit with the Lebanese authorities' consent, although the consent is a farce. This means that, in certain circumstances, we are liable to find the Syrian Army on the Lebanese border. This possibility does not make us very happy.

[Ronen] You said, Mr. Minister, that we will not tolerate such a situation. This evening we heard reports saying that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has begun sending troops—the reports mentioned 2,000 tanks and thousands of soldiers—into the Lebanese territory. Has the IDF redeployed in the wake of the Syrian-Lebanese treaty?

[Arens] There has been no significant change in the deployment of IDF troops; those are just absurd stories.

[Ronen] Then, Mr. Minister, perhaps we can find one positive point in the Syrian-Lebanese agreement: If Hizballah, or Fatah, or other terrorist forces, do carry out attacks, we will have an address—Syria—for our accusations.

[Arens] Accusations, as we know, do not generally put an end to attacks and terrorism. We are not interested in confronting the Syrian Army. That is the last thing we wish to do and I hope we will not have to. If there are many attacks by Hizballah or the PLO, however, we will have a problem and we will be obliged to address the problem, as we will indeed do.

[Ronen] Do we have a red line, Syria's crossing of which will necessitate our action in Lebanon?

[Arens] The problem does not lie in red lines on the map of Lebanon. The problem lies in the situation itself: We wish to preserve that security we have achieved for our population in northern Israel, and we will preserve it.

[Ronen] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has mentioned a verbal understanding he had reached with the Syrians in 1985, when the IDF troops left Lebanon, which spoke about retaining the status quo in the south, about the SLA [South Lebanese Army] remaining operational there, and a few other points of agreement between us and the Syrians. If the Syrians violate those agreements, will we see it as sufficient cause for action on our part?

[Arens] I do not think it would be wise for me to discuss either causes or red lines. As I have said, the issue that interests us and is our main concern is the security of the population of the north, and we will protect that.

[Ronen] Do you believe that, in the foreseeable future, there is any danger of deterioration in the security situation in northern Israel?

[Arens] I can see things that are liable to happen, things that are liable to constitute the beginning of a problem, but we are well prepared to confront all that.

[Ronen] Mr. Defense Minister, when James Baker left for the United States after his recent shuttle tour, he had despaired of getting Syria to participate in a peace conference with Israel. Do you think there is still a chance that Syria will participate in such a conference, or should we direct our efforts toward an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian parley without Syria?

[Arens] Efforts should be made in every direction. I am convinced that eventually all the Arab countries will come to negotiate peace with Israel.

[Ronen] Including Syria?

[Arens] I am sure that Syria will come, too, although I cannot say when. What Secretary Baker is still learning and what we, as Middle East inhabitants, already know, is that the peace making in this region is, by the nature of things, a very slow process. I think that when talking about Syria we should remember we are not talking about a country, but about a ruler, Hafiz al-Asad, who decides everything. My impression is that he lacks sufficient incentive to make peace with Israel. I hope I am wrong, but so far we have not witnessed any signs of desire or enthusiasm on his part to make peace with Israel.

[Ronen] Al-Asad has emerged victorious both from the Gulf war and Baker's last move.

[Arens] First of all, he has taken advantage of the Gulf war to swallow up Lebanon almost surreptitiously. He has done in Lebanon what Saddam Husayn tried to do in Kuwait, but he was successful.

[Ronen] To go back to Secretary of State Baker: Tonight he voiced some extremely harsh criticism of the Israeli settlement policy. This criticism may not be new, but the question remains: Does the Israeli Government intend to pursue its policy of inaction, or will it perhaps take advantage of the prolonged lull in Baker's shuttle tours to take initiative in the territories—perhaps through elections, municipal or other—so as to retain hold of the situation?

[Arens] First of all, I reject the term of policy of inaction. Since its establishment, the State of Israel has made attempts to reach peace settlements with its neighbors. Our failure to have achieved that, or to have achieved it only in the case of Egypt—and that only after 30 years—is not through any fault of ours. It is true, however, that if it transpires that the Arab rulers do not wish to make peace with Israel, or that they lack incentive, or that they are afraid—perhaps King Husayn is afraid of starting negotiations with us—I believe that we will have to achieve an understanding with representatives of the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. As defense minister, I have been making efforts to promote that process.

[Ronen] In what venues? Have you taken concrete steps to make things budge, to achieve progress?

[Arens] We are, first and foremost, trying to ease this population's dire economic situation. The intifadah has achieved one thing only: suffering for the population. It has not achieved anything else. I think most of the population realizes that fact now. All those political goals....[changes thought] Yasir 'Arafat said once: The Palestinian state is a stone's throw away. Today it is beyond the horizon; no Palestinian sees it any more. Their economic situation, though, is very difficult, and we are trying to alleviate it. We are also trying to create a dialogue with elements and notables in the territories; I myself meet with Palestinians every week.

[Ronen] Do you detect a change in their stance?

[Arens] I feel that most of the population has reached the conclusion that violence does not pay, does not achieve anything.

[Ronen] But, in concrete terms, do you intend to take initiative toward holding some kind of elections—whether actual municipal elections or appointed committees in certain locations—to give these people some more self-rule?

[Arens] I believe that, in the end, we will have to hold the elections which were mentioned in the Israeli Government's peace initiative of May 1989. However, the terror in the territories, generated by gangs of some of the vilest people of the Arab society, are making elections, and even plain free action, very difficult for the local people. People are simply afraid.

[Ronen] You do not intend to take the unilateral step of elections in the territories?

[Arens] I do not rule this out. At present, we are trying to bring about the establishment of bodies that would be able to take on the responsibility for the municipal management of towns and cities in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I regard this as the first step.

[Ronen] Do such bodies exist?

[Arens] They do, but, as I said, we still have to deal with their fear.

[Ronen] The fear of people who do not want to confront terrorism?

[Arens] The fear of possible vengeance. [passage omitted]

Government News 'Briefing' on Syrian Intentions

TA2205103791 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 May 91

["Summary" of a "special GPO briefing on Syria" by Dr. Yosi Olmert, director of the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, GPO, in Jerusalem on 21 May]

[Excerpts] The agreement [between Syria and Lebanon] is in line with the traditional Syrian policy to basically subjugate Lebanon into becoming some kind of a Syrian colony or proxy, [similar] to the relationships between the Soviet Union and countries in Eastern Europe in the [past], that we all hoped and thought were over. In many ways, there is nothing new with this agreement in terms of Syrian intentions to basically be in a position of complete political domination in Lebanon. What is new of course, is that, barring any dramatic developments at the last minute, this agreement is going to be signed and apparently will be ratified by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. This will be the first time a formal binding agreement [will exist] between the two countries, and not just formulas or drafts or texts for agreements that are not going to materialize.

Looking at the agreement, one can see many similarities between [it] and what was supposed to be the Damascus agreement of 1985, which at that time was signed between Syria and the various militias in Lebanon, not the Lebanese government. But already in that agreement they talked basically about a situation whereby Lebanon [would] become part of the Syrian sphere of interest, something that [would] be formalized, legalized in a binding agreement.

We believe that what the Syrians have in mind for Lebanon is to complete the process of swallowing Lebanon and making Lebanon part of the Syrian orbit, and then make Lebanon part of the overall Syrian strategic buildup towards the state of Israel. There is no question that the Syrians look at Lebanon as part of the overall Syrian strategic zone of interest, so far as the conflict with Israel is concerned.

We are told that this agreement is part of a process which [has brought] stability to Lebanon, and basically Lebanon is today much more pacified than ever before. This is because there is a legal government in Lebanon with a legitimate army in Lebanon that is taking care of stabilizing the situation there.

In recent months the security conditions in south Lebanon [have seriously deteriorated] exactly because of this Syrian-Lebanese policy. Not despite this policy, but because of it. Because the Syrians, while paying lip service to the necessity to pacify the Lebanese—to ensure that Lebanon will remain one integral country with one government, one army and so on—are on record saying that they will not deal with some military forces, whose only raison d'etre for existence in Lebanon, as they say, is to attack Israeli targets in northern Israel, i.e. the Palestinian factions, Hizballah and some other militias. [passage omitted]

There is definite reinforcement of militant elements in south Lebanon whose raison d'etre, according to their own announcements, is to attack Israeli targets. They justify their continued presence in these areas by their desire to attack Israeli targets. The Syrians are admitting as much.

Our policy with regard to this has always been and still is that we shall make sure that no such attacks on Israel [will] be sustained nor tolerated, and we shall take whatever steps [are necessary] in order to stop such

attacks—if indeed there is an increase in these attacks on a sustained basis. We make it very clear that we are monitoring these developments very closely, and we have to make clear to everyone concerned that we shall not allow the buildup in south Lebanon to be used against us and our vital security interests.

This agreement between Syria and Lebanon is not, to sum up the point, an agreement between two sovereign countries. Lebanon was raped, with the permission of international law if you like, by Syria, with the intention of turning Lebanon into part of their strategic buildup against Israel.

As it stands now, those forces in Lebanon that object to [the annexation of Lebanon by Syria] are unable to prevent it.

This process was accelerated by the Gulf crisis when not enough international attention was focused on this situation. The Gulf crisis and the period before, during and after the Gulf war was used by Syria to extend its influence in Lebanon leading us to the point where we are now.

Syria received about $3 billion from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries prior, during and after the Gulf war. Something which dramatically improved the Syrian economic situation to the extent that Syria is now able to do what it could not do before—and this is to purchase new arms.

When we talk about the peace process and how it will develop, we see a sustained and systematic Syrian policy of reinforcing its military capabilities in a way which has to arouse the concern of neighboring countries, and should arouse the concern of the international community.

Remember how it all started with the Iraqis, when Israel and other countries called attention to the Iraqi military buildup and not enough attention was given to this. Now we talk about Syria purchasing Scud-c missiles from North Korea with an effective range of about 600km. They already received some 60-80 such missiles in the beginning of March and they expect to receive the launchers very soon. Once they get the launchers they will have full operational capabilities to use these Scud-c's, which according to what we know are better than the Scud-b's used by Iraq in the Gulf war. Now the Syrians are negotiating with the People's Republic of China to purchase the M-9 ground-to-ground missile with an effective range of about 800 kms and can carry a one-ton warhead—as opposed to the Scud-b used by Iraq against Israel, which could carry a warhead of no more than a quarter of a ton.

I am speaking of missiles which have already arrived in Syria and they now expect to receive the launchers. [Syria has also] purchased about 300 new T-72 tanks from Czechoslovakia. We are very dissatisfied with the intention of the Czech government to sell arms to such an aggressive country as Syria. We have made our concerns quite clear to them and we expect other governments as well to make their concerns known to the Czech government. Perhaps we could still prevent this deal from taking place and by the way, while all this is happening, we in Israel are agonizing over the need to cut down our military expenditure and this is the subject of intense discussion in the Israeli press, not just in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

We also know about contacts between Syria and the Soviet Union in order for Syria to purchase some new SU-24s which are the Soviet medium-range bombers, and about 50 new MiG-29s and a large number of new sophisticated tanks alongside some air defense systems. So one can see that while everybody could have expected a country like Syria to use the money they got from Saudi Arabia for peaceful development purposes, most of what they received they are spending in the open market to buy more arms, many of them aggressive and offensive weapons.

Very recently we also received a report that the State department still has Syria on the list of terrorist states. Syria is one of the very few countries that still appears on the list. [Though there has not been an increase] in terrorist activities directly inspired or motivated by Syria against Israel or other countries, Syria is still on the list because [it has kept intact] the entire infrastructure of terrorism [that it controls] in areas of Lebanon and in Syria itself. [The Syrians are] maintaining these for a "rainy day", when the Syrians will decide to [operate them again] against whatever enemy. It is a network of organizations ranging from Palestinian factions such as the Jibril faction, Armenian groups, the Kurdish PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan], and other organizations which are, in some cases, more accountable to Iran but still cooperate with Syria for whatever reason.

Here again one can see that there has been no change in the fact that Syria is holding on to a whole network of terrorist organizations, and we all know what they are capable of. Let me conclude my introductory remarks with some comments on the Syrians and the peace process.

Syria is still committed to an international conference, [one that is] binding and coercive, supervised, monitored and led by the U.N. which will allow the five permanent members of the Security Council to take part. Syria is still committed to the principle of a continuous peace conference and on the record rejects the notion that, [regardless of] the format, it should lead to a final conclusive peace treaty with Israel that will terminate once and for all the conflict that Syria has with Israel, or for that matter, the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I do not know if, once the Jordanians have agreed to a joint Palestinian delegation, the Syrians will try to disrupt the process. The signs from the past are that in the mid-80's when the Jordanians and the Palestinians tried to form some kind of an understanding about representation in future possible peace talks, the Syrians were

very much against it and used a variety of terrorist organizations, particularly against Jordanian targets, from mid-'83 until May '85—when there was a reconciliation between the two countries. In my opinion, it is unwise to allow a militant and aggressive country like Syria to have the power to veto the process. It is desirable to have Syria as part of the process. It is undesirable to pin everything on Syrian participation which would be like rewarding an aggressive militant country whose desires are far from being peaceful ones. This is expressed by their actions in Lebanon, their increased arms purchases and so on.

As much as one would expect the Syrians to be part of the process, it is not desirable to turn them into key players because that will give them unnecessary leverage. We know what a militant country can do when they have leverage in their hands.

Editorial: Positive Side to Syrian Control

TA2205154991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 May 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Beirut-Damascus Axis"]

[Text] Israel's ultimate consideration in forming its attitude toward developments in Lebanon must be security, and it must be focused on the border area, not on Beirut. Learning this lesson has cost us dearly in blood, but from listening to Defense Minister Moshe Arens' remarks to the members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee two days ago, it appears that the lesson has been forgotten, above all, by those who should have engraved it in their memories.

Arens complained that Lebanon has become a Syrian "protectorate." A decade ago, Arens was not perturbed by the fantasies of his colleagues in the Likud, led by Begin and Sharon, who set out to turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate with a dictated peace and a green light to fight the Syrian Army and send it packing. That crazy pipe dream never had a chance of being realized: Even had Basir al-Jumayyil survived—and it was no coincidence that he did not—he would have redirected his policy, out of demographic and geopolitical exigencies, toward Syria and not toward Israel.

The defense of its northern border is crucial to Israel. Maintaining a reasonable level of security at that border justifies the continued existence of the security zone north of the border. Actually, there is a similar security strip along the border with Syria, on the Golan Heights, without any pretensions by Israel to influence the composition of the government in Damascus. Israel has the right to express concern about the concentration of hostile forces in the vicinity of its border with Lebanon and to warn against such a concentration, but the history of the past two decades on the Golan Heights and in Lebanon leads to a conclusion opposite that implied by Arens. A strong central government, or in other words, a Syrian one, prevented infiltrations through the Golan Heights ever since the disengagement agreements of June 1974. A weak central government in Beirut allowed the various local militias, including extreme Palestinian and Shiite organizations, to constitute an armed threat to Israel.

The Saudi and U.S. support of the al-Ta'if agreement two years ago confirmed the new reality in Lebanon: The Christians are a declining force (and their temporary leader, Michel 'Awn, is a client of Saddam's); the Muslims are the majority, but they are also helpless and have to lean on Syria. Washington and Riyad, this time, just as before, are accepting all the developments between Damascus and Beirut as the logical continuation of the process that crushed 'Awn and instated al-Hirawi, the Syrian puppet, in power.

Ten years ago, the United States and Saudi Arabia mediated between the Begin government and the PLO to achieve a cease-fire in the North. Now they must act to prevent the recurrence of Palestinian or Shiite threats that could trigger an Israeli response. Outside of that clause (and a guarantee that the Israeli Air Force would be able to attack hostile targets in Lebanon), we can and even should welcome Syrian control of Lebanon. The Israeli Government should strive for a package deal with Damascus, to reach a state of nonbelligerent mutual coexistence and understanding on the Golan Heights and on Lebanon. Arens' statements give rise to fears that those who form Israel's security policy have not learned their lesson.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Pinheiro Arrives

TA2005200991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Portugal has appointed a resident ambassador in Israel. The appointment was announced tonight by Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro on his arrival for a visit, our correspondent Dan Eshel reports.

Meets Palestinian Leader

LD2205112291 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 2300 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] Joao de Deus Pinheiro's visit to Israel continues. The foreign minister was favorably impressed with his meeting today with the Palestinian leader of the occupied territories. Nuno Moura Bras reports from Jerusalem.

[Begin Moura Bras recording] [passage omitted] Faysal al-Husayni met with Deus Pinheiro for two hours. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Israeli authorities do not want peace. They hate the Palestinians who are seeking peace, the Palestinian leader said, reaffirming once more that he wants a peace conference with EC participation, since the EC must insist on participating in an international peace conference. But he was quite optimistic about possible EC lobbying of Israel and the United States, since 1992 is coming and, the Palestinians say, Israel wants to be part of the Common Market. Then, the bargaining chip may

be the EC turning down Israel's entry until the Jews resolve the Palestinian problem.

In the Palestinian leader's view, once more he said that there is no difference between Shamir and what he is doing to the Palestinians and what Saddam did to the Kuwaitis.

Deus Pinheiro said at the end of the meeting with regard to the visit, that he would tell the Israelis what he had told the Syrians and the Jordanians. I did not come to Israel to be nice, but to say and hear what I have to do. I did likewise in Syria and Jordan. [passage omitted]

Meets With Levi

TA2205105791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and visiting Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro has just ended in Jerusalem. Dan Eshel reports from the Foreign Ministry:

The talks dealt mainly with bilateral issues and only slightly with the peace process. Relations are growing closer, especially now that Portugal has decided on a resident ambassador in Israel. The operational aspects of that will also be considered, Minister Levi said.

[Begin Levi recording] The ties are growing closer, and there is an understanding about a need for greater coordination, as well as the strengthening of ties between our two countries in many areas. We have taken upon ourselves to act together to further that aim. I can say that we spoke like two realistic people who are also friends. [end recording]

The visiting minister said he came to learn. In January 1992, Portugal will become the acting EC president. Referring to the peace process, Minister Pinheiro said: We expressed a readiness to help, but we do not want to interfere.

The two ministers are now lunching together, and there will be a second working session.

Meets Shamir, Denies Pro-Arab Position

TA2205180191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro is currently conferring with President Hayim Herzog. Earlier today he visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and met Foreign Minister David Levi, who spoke about the development of friendly relations. This evening, the visiting minister met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Dan Eshel reports:

Foreign Minister David Levi told his Portuguese counterpart that the government had endorsed his [Levi's] proposal on Europe's participation in the regional conference. Levi added that the status of the Europeans in the conference would be determined in his upcoming brief visit to Europe.

The meeting with the prime minister was very interesting, the Portuguese foreign minister said. In 1992 Minister Pinheiro will become the EC president. The prime minister told the visiting minister that Israel would expect the European countries to make a gesture that would illustrate to the Israeli public that Europe has friendly intentions toward Israel. Commenting on the matter, the Portuguese foreign minister told us:

[Begin Pinheiro recording in English] Europe has quite often been taken wrongly as having a pro-Arab standing, which is not the case. Europe has its own standing, which is based on some principles. We are open to discuss them. [end recording]

[Eshel translates the above and continues] We are prepared to take positive steps to allay Israel's concerns, the Portuguese minister said. Perhaps that was the first gesture.

The guest told the prime minister that when he is appointed president of the EC, he will want to take advantage of the positive change in Europe's public opinion to strengthen relations with Israel in the economic and political fields. Progress on the political process, Pinheiro said, could have a positive effect on Israel's relations with the EEC countries. In the meeting, the prime minister called on the European countries to help Israel with the mass absorption of Soviet Jews.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Poland

TA2205165091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Israel and Poland signed a series of economic, agricultural, cultural, and educational agreements at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this evening. Four ministers signed the agreements for Poland, while Foreign Minister David Levi signed for Israel.

Our correspondents Yitzhaq Feller and Nava Kohen report that, among other things, the agreements provide for the cancellation of dual taxation and the encouragement of investments. The cultural agreement provides for the establishment of cultural centers in the two countries and mentions steps to be taken to fight anti-Semitism. Furthermore, textbooks in Poland will be revised, while seminars about Judaism and the State of Israel will be held for teachers and students.

Ministers Discuss Reparations

TA2305083891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 May 91 p 12

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Text] Polish ministers traveling with President Lech Walesa bridled last night at the suggestion that Poland pay reparations to Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivors or their heirs.

The subject was raised by a reporter during a news conference at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, presided over by Walesa's spokesman, Andrzej Drzycimski, and attended by all five ministers who'd accompanied Walesa here.

The ministers were quick to distinguish between re-privatization—the return of private property confiscated by the Nazis or the Communists—and reparations. Regulations regarding re-privatization are yet to be resolved by the Polish parliament, but will apply equally to all Poles, irrespective of religion, if they were citizens of Poland before 1939.

Deputy foreign minister Jan Majewski emphasized that Poland had not committed crimes against the Jews as had the Germans and, therefore, did not have to pay reparations.

President Herzog has accepted Walesa's invitation for a reciprocal visit and is scheduled to travel to Poland in October. No date has been set for Prime Minister Shamir's visit to the land of his birth.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 21 adds: "Asked whether Poland will close down the PLO Embassy in Warsaw, as Prime Minister Shamir requested at his meeting with Lech Walesa, Majewski said this issue is not being considered now."]

Shamir Sends Condolences to Indian Prime Minister

TA2205162291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has telegrammed his condolences to India's prime minister in the wake of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. He wrote: I would like to send my condolences to the family and the Indian people, who have lost a promising leader in the prime of his life as a result of a vile terrorist act.

Lubrani Welcomes Shiite Proposal on POW Exchange

TA2205123491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of activities in Lebanon, has said that Israel welcomes the proposal of Shaykh Ahmad Shams-al-Din, deputy head of the Shiite Supreme Council, to exchange Israeli POW's and Western hostages for Lebanese detained in Israel.

Lubrani said the time has come to settle the question of the POW's held in Lebanon, and he noted that three of the seven Israeli MIA's and POW's in Lebanon are held by either Hizballah or other pro-Iranian groups. Lubrani was speaking on the Lebanese radio station Voice of the South.

Editor: Bush Administration Credibility at Stake

TA2005135291 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 20 May 91 p 16

[Interview with AL-FAJR editor-in-chief Hanna Sinyurah by Khalil Tuma; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: Would you say that U.S. efforts to find a solution have come to end?

A: It's too early to write off the Bush administration's peace initiative. Both President Bush and Secretary Baker insist that their efforts will continue despite the lack of progress on several key issues, such as the role of the United Nations, the ongoing presence and participation of the international parties, exchange of land for peace, a clear interpretation and implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, etc.

The two leading superpowers, particularly the United States, can exert a more forceful attitude on the parties to the conflict, on the government of Israel if they intend to salvage the present attempts to bring to an end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The credibility of the Bush administration is at stake, in the Middle East as well as internationally, if it allows the present process to be sidetracked by the intransigence of Shamir and his government.

Q: Do you expect the Palestinian movement to stay on course with its peace initiative despite a lack of results?

A: If Secretary Baker openly declares an end to his efforts, then it is imperative to immediately start a reassessment of the political situation. Notwithstanding the letdown of failure of the peace process, the Palestinian side will emerge in better shape on all fronts as a result of demonstrating their readiness to discuss in a constructive manner the attempts to hold a peace conference.

The Gulf war adversely affected the image of the Palestinian people and their leadership. But the statesmanship demonstrated by the PLO, in designating a local Palestinian delegation to meet, discuss with and relay messages to the Americans, have indicated beyond doubt the clear-cut trends within Palestinian political circles for peace and reconciliation. This position has helped to improve political ties with European countries as well as in the Arab world.

France and the Soviet Union are indicating that the next stage is to seek a binding Security Council resolution, and to activate the role of the United Nations and Security Council, a position always advocated and encouraged by the PLO.

Q: How large is the gap between what has been offered us and our demands based on international legitimacy?

A: The Palestinian position based on implementation of international legitimacy does not coincide fully with what is being offered by Secretary Baker. The intention

of the American administration at this stage is to work to put an end to the Israeli occupation, and this is a goal we share too. However, we do not agree on several issues, mainly the right of self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Certainly, such divergence cannot be bridged at this stage, but we are not allowing it to prevent the start of a process that would lead to an end of occupation and an alleviation of human rights violations and harsh economic conditions. The Palestinian position is not to deviate from basic constraints, but to be flexible in procedural matters in order to build confidence and create a more conductive public mood in both camps.

Q: How do you read U.S. objectives? Why should we feel that they are serious based on current attempts?

A: The Bush administration covets as one of its most potentially important foreign policy achievements a solution to the Palestinian issue. Yet what the Bush administration desires is certainly less than what the Palestinian people seek. The American goal is to end the Israeli occupation through direct negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides for an association within a confederal set-up with Jordan.

Although the Palestinians do not refuse a confederal tie-up with Jordan, as a result of the free will of the Palestinian people in a plebiscite after full independence, the Americans refuse to discuss an independent Palestinian state and this leaves grounds for suspicion that at a certain stage the Americans might not work to fulfill U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy on the question of Palestine.

Two Deportees Named in Palestinian Delegation

TA2105152591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 21 May 91 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Palestinian and Arab sources have been quoted as saying that the independent Palestinian delegation for the talks will include two deportees: Mr. Akram Haniyah, editor in chief of the newspaper AL-SHA'B, who was deported four years ago, and Taysir 'Aruri, professor of physics at Bi'r Zayt University, who was deported to Paris during the intifadah. [passage omitted]

'Surprise' Expressed at UK Official's Remarks

TA2005160591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Israel expressed surprise at the remarks by David G. Booth, deputy director general of the British Foreign Office [name and title as heard], that Israel is no different from all the other states in the region with regard to human rights. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi Amihud told our political correspondent Arye Golan that such sharp remarks by an official of [Booth's] rank calls for a reprimand from his superiors.

Company Enters Venture With Soviet Institute

TA2105081791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 May 91 p 6

[Report by Galit Lipkis]

[Text] Ormat Turbines announced yesterday that it has formed a new company to establish geothermic power stations in the Soviet Union, in partnership with the Soviet energy institute Enin.

The new company is to use equipment produced by Ormat.

Ormat said it established the firm in order to export geothermic stations to the Soviet Union and to import Russian technology used to fuel power stations with shale oil. Ormat has the exclusive agreement to bring to Israel the technology needed to take advantage of shale oil.

There are a large number of shale-oil deposits in the Negev. Two Israeli companies—Pama (Energy Resources Development) and the Israel Electric Corp.—plan to establish a power station that operates on shale-oil fuel.

Officials Enraged by Egyptian Envoy's Remarks

TA2105083091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Shefi Gabay, and ITIM]

[Text] Israeli elements are concerned with the reports about Egyptian-Jordanian-Syrian political coordination forged in the wake of Baker's shuttle tours of the Middle East. According to one assessment, Jordan will be apprehensive about joining separate negotiations with Israel, and even Egypt will refrain from extending support to a process that runs against Syria's wishes. This estimate is based, among other things, on the sharp statements issued by Islamic fundamentalist elements in Amman against negotiations with Israel and against any kind of peace conference.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Iraq has resumed its fuel supply to Jordan and has even sent initial aid to the PLO in the sum of $750,000.

Furthermore, Jerusalem officials are enraged by remarks by Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni about Israel's "provocative policy." The Israeli ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval, was almost declared persona non grata for less than that, remarked one of the sources.

Criticism against Egypt was exacerbated by Cairo's strident remarks, as well as President Mubarak's support for Syria's stands. The Jerusalem sources said that Egypt has recently also begun to voice anti-American positions, including a statement denouncing Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states for their decision to dispatch an observer to

the conference. In addition, Cairo is trying to bring the PLO back into the picture, contrary to the Israeli and U.S. position.

Shamir, Arens Comment on Situation in Ethiopia

TA2105183091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says Israel and Ethiopia have a basic commonality of interests which should express itself regardless of the regime in Addis Ababa. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he is concerned for the safety of the Jews in Ethiopia, as he always is. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] By and large, officials in Jerusalem refused to comment on the flight of President Mengistu or its implications for Israel. Prime Minister Shamir was at a luncheon with visiting Polish President Lech Walesa when his spokesman, Avi Pazner, whispered in his ear that Mengistu had fled. Shamir told reporters he did not yet know the details, but we asked what effect the change of regime would have on relations between Jerusalem and Addis Ababa.

[Shamir] Well, I think about it. I don't know for the moment what to say about it. I have to know the details.

[Katzenell] Was the prime minister concerned about the safety of the Jews still in Ethiopia?

[Shamir] Of course, of course, I am always concerned with it and I think about it.

[Katzenell] Also at the luncheon was Defense Minister Moshe Arens. I asked him if Israel's strategic interests in the Horn of Africa are in jeopardy as a result of the flight of Colonel Mengistu.

[Arens] I just hear that from you. I didn't realize that Col. Mengistu had fled. It all depends on who's going to take over there. It's too early to tell.

[Katzenell] Do you think, from the long experience we have in relations with Ethiopia, that Israel can manage with any regime in Addis Ababa?

[Arens] Well, I think there is a basic commonality of interests between the two countries that should express itself regardless of the regime. But, it all depends on who's going to take over there. [end recording]

Government Approves New Golan Heights Settlement

TA2005115791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] A new settlement is to be established soon in the northern sector of the Golan Heights. It was approved recently by the government and the National Planning Committee. A chairman of the Golan settlement committee, Eli Malka, told Qol Yisra'el that plans to build the new settlement—to be named Brukhim—were accelerated to demonstrate Israel's determination not to give up the Golan Heights.

The ground breaking ceremony of another new settlement, Kanaf, will take place in the southern part of the Heights tomorrow. Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon will attend.

Immediate Tax Break Recommended for Gazans

TA2105083791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 May 91 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] A Defense Ministry-appointed committee of inquiry into the economy of the Gaza Strip recommends an immediate tax break for Palestinians there and tax benefits to encourage industrial projects.

If adopted, the recommendations would bring income tax brackets into line with the Israeli tax system, reducing the tax burden for most Palestinians. But it would mean changing the British income tax ordinances in force when Israel captured the Gaza Strip in 1967.

Hebrew University agricultural economist 'Ezra Sadan, who headed the eight-man inquiry team, made the recommendations last week as the first part of a plan to revitalize the economies of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, increase the standard of living of the 1.8 million Palestinian residents and reduce the dependence of the population on jobs in Israel.

Before 1967 under Egyptian rule, there were no tax exemptions for low-income families, "probably because wages were so low" overall, Sadan told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. In Israel, the lowest-paid earners often pay no taxes.

The change in the tax brackets would reduce the civil administration's tax receipts by NIS [new Israeli shekels] 20 million to NIS 40m., he estimated.

This would mean that the highest earners may pay more, but this could be offset by another recommendation that tax breaks be offered to investors in labor-intensive projects for three years.

Gaza lawyer Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, who headed a three-member Gaza delegation to Egypt last month, with the blessing of the government coordinator in the territories, but failed in an attempt to win Saudi backing for economic projects in Gaza, welcomed the changes. However, he told the POST he had not been informed of any pending changes in the tax system.

"It will certainly help to increase economic projects. Some Israeli cooperation in this field will help very much to promote industries here."

Sadan said one of the unwritten implications of his recommendations is that Gazans will be free to export

industrial goods to Israel. There is no law against this, but there has been a "pattern of behavior" by Israeli industrialists which prevented any competition.

"What they are being told in effect by these measures is that the Israeli market is open, because if you establish a business the first thing you ask is where am I going to sell."

The issue is currently more complicated concerning the free movement of agricultural goods as this is circumscribed by legal quotas. Sadan also said the situation in the West Bank which he would be studying next was more complex than in Gaza.

The other side of the equation is that Gazans would have to absorb Israeli goods which Palestinians have been trying to boycott as part of the intifada.

Abu-Rahmah downplayed the importance of the Palestinian boycott: "If some dealers are boycotting Israeli goods, they are a minority. Customers are not boycotting."

Despite attacks by Islamic fundamentalists on merchants selling Israeli goods, Abu-Rahmah said, "Any influence of any group is limited. There isn't the unanimous decision there used to be. Things are different now."

Chamber of Commerce Elections in Gaza Urged

TA2105181591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, today met with a delegation from the Gaza Strip chamber of commerce, headed by al-Haj Raghib Murtaja. The economic situation in the Gaza Strip was discussed at this meeting.

Our correspondent, Yoni Ben-Menahem, reports that the head of the Civil Administration suggested to the delegation that new elections for the chamber of commerce be held, especially since some members of the chamber's board of directors have died. The last elections for this chamber were held in 1975. The delegation told the head of the Civil Administration that there was no possibility of holding elections at present, since such elections would be interpreted as having a political overtone.

Poll Shows Shamir, Rabin Attract More Votes

TA2105083391 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 91 p A2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] A unique Israeli survey, designed to determine how the public will act if asked to vote according to a (not yet legislated) law for the direct election of the prime minister, shows that Yitzhaq Shamir in the Likud and Yitzhaq Rabin in the Alignment are the most effective "vote attracting" figures; they also "repel" fewer voters than their opponents.

The survey was conducted between 5 and 13 May by the polling institute of Hanokh and Rafi Smith. Some 1,200 interviewees throughout the country were asked the following question:

—Leaders of the two major parties either "attract" or "repel" voters' support for their parties. Do the following leaders "attract," "repel," or "fail to influence" your support for their parties?

The following are the poll's results in percentages:

	Attracts	Fails To Influence	Repels	No Opinion
Yitzhaq Shamir	28	34	31	7
Yitzhaq Rabin	34	39	18	9
Ari'el Sharon	27	30	35	8
Shim'on Peres	13	32	47	8

The same poll (of May 1991) also examined the strength of the Israeli parties: The Likud received 32 percent of the interviewees support, which constitutes a 3 percent rise compared with the findings of a November 1990 poll in which 29 percent supported the Likud, but a drop of 2 percent compared with the support the Likud received in the 1988 Knesset elections (34 percent.)

In the May 1991 poll, the Alignment received the support of 23 percent of the interviewees, a 2 percent rise compared with the November 1990 poll (21 percent), but an 8.5 percent drop from the 1988 elections (31.5 percent).

There was no significant change in the polled public's support for the smaller parties.

IDF Discontinues 30 Periodicals as Part of Cuts

TA2005115691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 May 91 p 2

[Report by the military affairs correspondent]

[Text] The publication of 30 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] periodicals has been discontinued. The weekly BAMAHANE, the monthly MA'ARAKHOT, and BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR will continue to appear. This was decided by the IDF General Staff in the framework of a plan for cuts in the publication of IDF bulletins and newsletters. BAMAHANE will serve as the alternative mouthpiece for the discontinued publications.

MA'ARAKHOT will remain the organ for the views of Army commanders, while BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, considered the most prestigious military publication, will continue to appear, after a few changes are introduced.

In view of the chief of staff's recommendation, it was decided to discontinue all commercial advertisements in Army publications. Various legal experts found them to be inappropriate.

Incidents in Territories Reported 20 May

TA2005101391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 91 p A3

[Report by Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, 'Atallah Mansur, and agencies]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources reported yesterday that in incidents in Nabulus, two youths were wounded. The two are Fawzi al-'Amidi, 12, and 'Ammar al-Qaddumi, 15; both suffered leg injuries. In the village of Burqa, north of Nabulus, the Army conducted an initiated operation in the process of which Muhand Hajja, 17, was shot in the shoulder by a rubber bullet.

One Hebron youth was shot and another captured after a military bus was stoned in Hebron on Thursday night. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, one of the bus passengers, shot and wounded a stone thrower while detaining the suspect in accordance with Army procedures. The suspect, who was wounded in the buttocks, was transferred to Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Another stone thrower was captured by the IDF.

A partial commercial strike was held yesterday in the territories to protest the deportation of four Fatah activists from Gaza. Today the territories are to hold a commercial strike marking the first anniversary of the murder of Arab workers in Rishon Leziyyon. The chairman of the West Bank Trade Unions Federation, Shahir Sa'd, has announced that to commemorate the massacre, all Palestinians workers will stand at attention for one minute. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, a body calling itself the "Supreme Council of Students" distributed a leaflet in the West Bank sharply denouncing the Palestinian notables who recently met with James Baker.

In recent days, the Civil Administration in the West Bank has introduced new regulations with regard to the amounts of money travelers may bring when crossing the Jordan bridges into the West Bank. The previous amount of 1,000 dinars per person that could be brought over the Jordan bridges has been raised to 2,000 dinars. The new regulations permit every resident of the territories to bring this sum without any special permit or declaration.

An explosive charge was thrown yesterday at the Gaza District police station. The charge exploded, but caused no damage.

Over the holiday [19 May], four Molotov cocktails were hurled at IDF patrols in Rafah, causing no damage. Palestinian sources reported that four residents were hurt in clashes with the IDF in almost all the refugee camps over the holiday: two in the Rafah refugee camp and two in Jabalyah. [passage omitted]

In a fire caused by arson in Kibbutz Nir 'Oz, some 80 dunams of wheat plantation were burned completely, while an additional 40 dunams were damaged. A police scout, who accompanied the investigators, found tracks leading to the Gaza Strip.

Body Searches Canceled; Incidents Reported

TA2105085091

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 21 May carries a report by Avi Bnayahu on page 2 saying that "Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, has recently ordered the total cancellation of the practice whereby IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops search the bodies and possessions of Palestinians crossing the Jordan River bridges from the territories into Jordan. The purpose of the searches, which were first instituted in 1974," was to check for written messages residents of the territories passed on to "PLO offices and other elements in Jordan, and sometimes to other Arab countries." Rothschild reached the conclusion that in the age of facsimiles, computers, and international telecommunications networks, the regulation is "meaningless," aside from the "humiliation" for all the parties involved in the searches. A side benefit from this new ruling is a saving in manpower deployed along the Jordan River bridges.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 21 May, in a report by Ori Nir, Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, and ITIM on page A5, reports that "a general commercial strike was held in the territories yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the killing of the seven Arab laborers in Rishon Leziyyon. Businesses in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were closed, but studies were held as usual.

"A firebomb was thrown at a No. 1 Egged bus in East Jerusalem yesterday. It exploded and ignited on the road. No damage was caused. Approximately 20 masked persons congregated in the Shu'fat area and hurled rocks at a Border Police contingent. The policemen shot rubber bullets and tear gas at them. No casualties were reported." Also, "500 al-Shabibah and Fatah supporting youths held a protest march in Qabatiyah, in the northern part of the West Bank, yesterday on the anniversary of the Rishon Leziyyon murders. They carried placards, waved flags, and made speeches. The Unified National Command of the Uprising called for a commercial strike, while Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] called for an escalation of attacks against Israel on that day.

"Only a few incidents were recorded yesterday: A 17-year-old youth, Tawfiq Basyuni, from the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, sustained leg injuries from shots fired by soldiers during a stoning incident." "A general strike was held in the Gaza Strip yesterday as well. The IDF clamped a curfew on most of the refugee camps in the area for fear of disturbances. Palestinian sources reported curfews in Jabalyah, Khan Yunus, Rafah, and al-Shati'." Yesterday "IDF soldiers in Gaza caught two masked youths armed with cold steel weapons who were going to paint slogans. Palestinian sources reported three injuries in clashes with the IDF in the Rafah refugee

camp and in Khan Yunus. The IDF spokesman's representative in the Southern Command said that the hospitals did not report Arab injuries.

"Palestinian sources reported that no laborers left for work in Israel yesterday. The IDF spokesman's representative said the strike in Gaza was only partial and that 29,000 people did go to work."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 21 May reports that "police are investigating suspicions that several youths in the Israeli Arab village of Umm al-Fahm have been training in the use of firearms and also built a series of makeshift weapons. This was disclosed by a senior police officer in Haifa's Magistrate's Court yesterday in requesting the extension of the remand of a 17 year old from Umm al-Fahm. The youth is suspected of painting anti-Israel slogans on village walls during the Gulf war."

Palestinian Deported to Jordan for Five Years

TA2105145591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 May 91 p 8

[Text] Jerusalem—Last Friday [17 May], the Israeli authorities deported 25-year-old Ahmad Muhammad 'Ajaj, from the Jabal al-Mukabar refugee camp in Jerusalem, to Jordan for five years.

'Ajaj was detained on 22 April and charged with committing several security offenses. He remained in custody until the day he was deported, when his family was allowed to meet with him for the first time. 'Ajaj was deported to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge.

Three Palestinians Injured in Territories

TA2205153091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 91

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Three West Bank youths were wounded in separate incidents, Monday night and yesterday, Palestinian sources said.

Hamad Abu Aysha of Bayt Wazan, near Nabulus, was shot in the leg Monday night; Yusuf Barakat, 18, was shot in the chest and back by rubber bullets in Qalqilyah; and Mahmud Washabi, 14, was wounded in the hand when an unknown object exploded in his hand in al-Shuhada.

The army had no report of the incidents but was checking into them.

In Tulkarm refugee camp yesterday, the army destroyed two houses and sealed a third belonging to families of recently captured "Black Panther" youth accused of killing and attacking several alleged Israeli agents, military sources said.

The three were identified as Khalid Khajbeh, Sa'ir Jabir and Walid Nafa. The action was taken after families of the three lost their appeal to the High Court of Justice.

In Rafah, two firebombs were thrown at a military patrol without damage, military sources said.

Meanwhile, official military sources said yesterday that a Palestinian who claimed that soldiers took his artificial leg in fact threw it at them when they were searching his shop.

Husni al-Abwah, who runs a toy and candy store on Kamal Street in Nabulus, said two weeks ago that soldiers entered his shop and took him to be questioned after objecting to his stock of plastic water pistols. They attacked him in his shop and took his artificial limb, forcing him to go to the nearby civil administration on one leg, he said.

Military sources confirmed the incident yesterday, but said that furniture in the shop was broken after al-Abwah resisted soldiers who entered his shop and threw his artificial limb at the soldiers.

Nabulus sources said yesterday that the same soldiers returned to his shop on several occasions after the incident, the latest being three days ago.

Yesh Gvul [There is a Limit] reported that Li'or Uvshani, 18, was yesterday sentenced to one week in jail, his third jail term, for refusing to serve in Gush 'Etzion, while Sgt.-Maj. Ami'el Vardi, 36, was sentenced to 29 days for refusing to serve in Hebron.

King Husayn Addresses War College Graduates

JN2205133891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 May 91

["Full recording" of speech by King Husayn at the Royal War College graduation ceremony in Amman on 22 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother graduate officers, honorable audience: I give you heartfelt greetings. I am pleased to be among you on this happy occasion as we celebrate the graduation of a new group from the Royal War College. I am pleased to address the graduate officers with my heartfelt congratulations accompanied with my sincere love and great appreciation for what they have achieved and accomplished, for the knowledge they have gained, and for the concepts they have developed through regular attendance at the higher military and strategic studies provided by this advanced scientific institution. No doubt, their scientific acquisitions are a qualitative addition to our national progress and a prominent contribution to the development of our Jordanian Armed Forces, a point of pride and appreciation for us.

Many thanks to the teaching staff at the college for their efforts and contributions, and to all specialists and officials who played a part in these contributions through the studies they prepared, the lectures they presented, and the consultations they conducted over the scholastic term. I am also pleased in particular to congratulate our brother Arab officers who have joined their Jordanian colleagues at the study desks seeking knowledge and success.

Dear brothers: At this time last year, we in Jordan, along with the rest of the fraternal Arab countries, were busy preparing ourselves for an Arab summit that was agreed to be held in Baghdad to look into the most important issue that could confront a nation or a regional gathering; namely, national security. Minds and hearts were then full of hopes and ideas to take a more advanced step on the road of the nation's cohesion and harmony as it faced the results of the great change brought about by the end of the cold war.

After exactly one year, this inspiring occasion gathers us, which I feel obliges us before speaking of any other issues, to call on you to look at what surrounds us, at pan-Arab security in particular, which was the point of our interest and concern a year ago. What do we see? I do not want to examine the details with you or review with you the events of the past 12 months. All are still fresh in your memory, and their results still stand before us. Moreover, our behavior, position, efforts, and judgments are also known to you. All were based on one deep conviction; namely, loyalty to the concept of the nation's common fate and higher interests, which are manifested in its freedom, independence, security, and resolution of its conflicts through peaceful means.

For this reason, we do not have the slightest doubt about the soundness of our position and our right to keep our heads high, despite the misunderstanding or unjust judgments that this position faced.

As I have said before, I do no want to go into the chapters of the tragedy that we and our nation experienced in all its emotions, feelings, and pain. I only want to focus on the size and depth of the change that occurred in only one year of our nation's age to the extent of saying: The regrettable events of this year were very intense and strong, such that things were turned upside down. Concepts were changed, convictions were shaken, alliances emerged, changes took place, and trends were created, all of which indicate that our nation is today at the crossroads of a new era, whose course is not easy to predict and whose direction is not easy to determine.

Our best comfort, which we search for in the complexities of what took place, is to begin earnest attempts to derive lessons and define them scientifically and courageously without excuses, illusions, or searching for scapegoats.

A severe pan-Arab catastrophe such as the one resulting from the Gulf crisis cannot be dealt by etching it into our memory so that it remains a source of pain, doubts, differences, and disputes. It should be overcome. This can only be achieved if it is analyzed, studied, reasoned. Only then, the painful experiment will turn into useful lessons instead of remaining a source of sadness and pain and a pretext for differences and divisions.

Our duty then is to place the painful past behind us and look at the future carrying with us the lessons learned in order to help us identify the path toward what is better and in order to make us avoid repeating the tragedy. Among the lessons that can be learned from the Gulf crisis are the following:

First, life does not always proceed as we wish, whether on the level of the individual or the level of the state.

Second, every state has limits regarding the freedom of its actions and decisions. At the same time, there is no single state on this earth that can live alone in isolation from the world in this age, now that the world has grown small with interlinked interests. If a state chooses isolation and solitude, it is in fact choosing backwardness, collapse, and slow death.

Third, this world is led and organized in accordance with the balance of power equation in and through international and regional organizations, which also function in accordance with this equation.

Fourth, every state has its own national interests that stop at the boundary of the national interests of others. If a state wants to follow its interests beyond this, the way forward is to cooperate and interact with others, not to collide with them.

Fifth, the homeland comes first. Its higher interests are also above others regardless of the importance of the others. On the basis of this principled understanding, constitutions are set forth, laws are enacted, and policies are planned and managed.

Sixth, each state has its own national priorities, which must be reasonable, balanced, and practicable, otherwise this country might lose its resources and gains in illusions or fatal mistakes.

Seventh, each Arab state has its own national priorities. Under the umbrella of the Arab League and until the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, national priorities had been adapted or made in harmony with the supreme pan-Arab interests. In the fifties and sixties, pan- Arab interests prevailed to the extent that they governed to a great degree the national priorities of every Arab country. The Gulf crisis, however, gave birth to a new phenomenon in which pan-Arab interests were sacrificed in favor of national priorities.

This new phenomenon raises several important questions related to the Arab future, pan-Arab security, Arab solidarity, joint Arab action, Arab development, and other slogans around which our nation has gathered since the establishment of the Arab League.

Eighth, the spread of consumerism over the past three decades is an undeniable fact. What is more important is the fact that this trend, as the Gulf crisis demonstrated, has affected our pan-Arab order of values. The phenomenon of consumerism was not confined to us but has also affected others. The most important evidence of this are the deep-rooted transformations in the East European states over the past two years.

Ninth, the Gulf tragedy has unraveled the characteristics of a new world order of which we are a part, but not a primary maker. The world order is a permanent, though renewable, order. In each era or phase, it has a center of gravity represented by one state or a group of states and defined by cultural, economic, scientific, and military factors.

The world order is not a club to which a state must apply for membership, joined by anyone who wishes to join or boycotted by anyone who wishes to boycott. It is an existing fact and an intricate world order from which no state has the power to separate itself.

This does not necessarily mean, however, that any state in the world order is subject to a predetermined fate or is programmed like a robot. Each state or group of states has the right to have its own aspirations, character, and aims. If this state or this group of states wants to promote its aims, it can do so through dialogue, cooperation, work, and organization in accordance with the regulations of this world order. If it finds that this order constitutes an obstacle in its path, the answer is not to rebel against this order—because the cost will be very high—but to try to develop it and try to open a new path in it in the hope that this order might accommodate the aims and aspirations of this state or group of states.

Such a thing, for instance, happened in the previous world order, known as the cold war era, when the Nonaligned Movement was able to open a path to form a neutral group between the Western and Eastern camps, irrespective of the degree of influence this movement had on the world order that prevailed at that time.

Tenth, the Gulf crisis highlighted the importance and influence of international and regional organizations in terms of their various tasks to control the course of events whether they are political, military, social, financial, economic, legal, or environmental organizations.

Eleventh, no matter what the features of the new world order are, and no matter what the regional accounts are, the Arab countries should deal with this order as united and harmonious states, not as fragmented and conflicting states.

This is our belief in Jordan, and we will do our utmost to act on this basis. Hence comes our call on Arab brothers to work together to open a new chapter after the tendencies of the pre-Islamic age.

Twelfth, cumulative human experience has produced common concepts and principles that every nation in the world needs or struggles for regardless of its national personality or cultural identity. These principles and common human objectives can be summarized as follows:

a. Adopting or consolidating the bases of democracy and respect

for human rights;
b. Achieving social justice;
c. Adopting and encouraging individual initiative in the economy;
d. Working to protect the environment;
e. Maintaining the supremacy of international law in resolving disputes and consolidating the pillars of peace;
f. Development, progress, and working together in achieving prosperity.

Thirteenth, despite widespread agreement on these principles and common human objectives, and despite the claimed concern for them, there remain differences in progress and standards of living within the same society and among states. There also remain violations of international law and ignorance of the causes of harm to the environment or failure to tackle them. There is also injustice and clear dominance of power, as well as disputes and lost rights.

Honorable guests:

Perhaps the most important regional dispute still in need of a peaceful solution is the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has a clear and old international dimension among all regional disputes. The most denied human rights are those of the Palestinian people, a part of whom is still under occupation, while the other part lives in the diaspora, with all the pain, fear, and suffering that this entails.

On 6 March, U.S. President George Bush delivered a speech at a joint session of Congress in which he said that the U.S. administration will embark on action to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and resolve the Palestine

question to achieve a comprehensive solution in accordance with the following four principles: Territory in exchange for peace; Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; recognizing Israel and guaranteeing secure borders for it; and guaranteeing the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

We welcomed this initiative based on the following five considerations:

1. The state that made the initiative is the state that led the coalition states under the umbrella of the international legitimacy in the Gulf crisis. This has given its initiative credibility to resolve old and new conflicts in the same region—that is, the Arab-Israeli conflict, which resulted from the Palestine question.

2. The four principles outlined by President Bush represent a sound concept for a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy.

3. We saw in the initiative a serious U.S. attempt to balance the great international concern for the implementation of international legitimacy to end the Gulf crisis, where it had not previously shown the same concern for international legitimacy in regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolving the Palestine question.

4. The initiative came at a time when international legitimacy was still alive and vibrating in the conscience of the world and as a more prominent feature of the new world order, considering it the first credible reference in solving international disputes.

5. The initiative came to meet a collective Arab demand to resolve the Palestine question in accordance with the international legitimacy, like the Gulf crisis.

The different interpretations that surfaced over this subject among the Arab brothers during the Gulf crisis were not at all over the need to apply international legitimacy to the Palestine question; they were on whether solving this question should be linked to solving the Gulf crisis, or should be resolved after this crisis. Now that the Gulf crisis is over and the United States has come forward with this initiative, slackness in dealing with it or neglecting it is no longer justified. Otherwise, we would be contradicting ourselves.

In accordance with the principles cited in President Bush's initiative, the United States came forward with a peace plan based on holding a conference from which negotiations will be launched on two tracks.

On the first track, each of the Arab states directly involved in the conflict would enter into negotiations, and in the second, the Palestinians would enter into negotiations with Israel. Negotiations on both tracks would start simultaneously, eventually to merge at one point. At that point, the agreements reached by the negotiators would be referred to the UN Security Council, which issued Resolutions 242 and 338 and which would guarantee the peace agreements.

Shortly after the start of the two-track negotiations, negotiations would begin in a third sphere related to regional issues like the removal of weapons of mass destruction, water, environment, and others. The region's states will participate in these negotiations. So far, the Gulf Cooperation Council states have already announced their agreement to participate in these negotiations and to attend the peace conference as an observer. We consider this agreement a responsible and positive step that will help establish peace and stability in the Middle East.

We have accepted and welcomed the broad framework of this concept, and emphasized our firmly established conviction that Resolution 242 means first of all respecting the principle of land for peace, because a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement cannot give Israel both land and peace. That would be ludicrous, because it would mean a lack of seriousness in the quest for peace. Accordingly, we embarked on three rounds of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mr. James Baker, in a spirit of open-mindedness and seriousness, during which we presented our views on the details of the plan and its elements. We also held similar talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Mr. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. As a result of our talks with the two ministers, we made tangible progress toward reaching an agreement. We hope that all parties will cooperate in the same spirit in order to realize a comprehensive agreement to begin peace negotiations on the basis of international legitimacy.

Israel, in particular, is called on to abandon its intransigence, be flexible in its positions, and respect this legitimacy, because peace deserves this, and because it is not a reward to one party to the exclusion of another. The peace that is needed by every one in the region, after this prolonged dispute, should not be dealt with in the spirit of a businessman, who seeks to gain as much profit as possible at the expense of the other party by seizing the opportunity that is more in his favor. Such a peace cannot last long and be strong. We must view peace as a promise bearing good for everybody and not merely an end to the state of war and an end to suffering.

Each party in the dispute should, therefore, seize the available opportunity and spare his people the consequences of missing that opportunity, as has happened in the past. A thorough examination of the Palestine question; of the nature, size, and dimensions of the Arab-Israeli dispute; and of the area and resources of the land on which it is raging will certainly show that such a peace cannot be achieved merely by signing peace agreements, because it needs protection, perpetuation, and development. This gives it a regional and an international dimension. Achieving this is not restricted to the direct parties to the dispute. All Arabs and influential states, including the big powers and rich states, are also responsible for achieving, perpetuating, and developing that peace.

The alternative to peace in light of the results of the Gulf war is the continuation of the fait accompli. Let us

remember that the fait accompli under which all the parties to the dispute are living is not stagnant but continuously changing for the worse. It is enough for us to draw a diagram of the missed peace opportunities in order to learn that facts on the ground today are more painful than those that existed at every peace opportunity that was missed in the past.

Let us be frank and truthful with ourselves and look at the situation of the patient struggler Palestinian people, whether those under occupation, or who are outside the land of Palestine, with the exception of Jordan, in which the Palestinians enjoy full rights of citizenship. It is really painful to see that the Palestinians, as viewed by some, have become merely something without any human value. This is clear in the fact that he can be easily uprooted from his homeland, place of work, and the source of his livelihood. It needs no more than a memo from the public security departments or a report from the secret police to make him and his family a stranger swept by the wind, with no home, homeland, livelihood, or dreams, but possessed by a perpetual nightmare called fear and loss.

The facts on the ground are painful, and we have to see them as they are. We cannot continue to close our eyes to this reality, of which we are part, and we cannot deny or conceal it by merely denouncing it or imagining the opposite. We must deal with them with open eyes and minds so as to reach a better situation, even if it is short of what we hope and wish. This is the law of life.

Graduate officers, I thank you and extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, wishing you every success in serving your homeland and nation. It is God who grants success, and peace be upon you.

Border Post With Iraq To Be Moved to Tirbil

JN2305060191 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
23 May 91 p 28

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Government has decided to move the border post between Jordan and Iraq from al-Ruwayshid to Tirbil point, only two km from the Iraqi border. The decision will go into effect Sunday, 26 May 1991.

Soviet Envoy Says Israel's Acts 'Unjustified'

NC2105175591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] In a statement following his meeting today with Engineer Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Ilichev stressed that Israel's acts in southern Lebanon are absolutely unjustified because the legitimate Lebanese authority is making its utmost efforts to restore security and stability in the South. He added that the Israeli behavior is totally incompatible with the efforts being made on regional and international levels to activate the Middle East peace process.

In his statement, Ambassador Ilichev urged all parties concerned about the Lebanese crisis to contribute effectively toward implementing UN Resolution 425. He added: We are undertaking efforts to ensure the implementation of the resolution. We expect the other sides to move in the same direction. [passage omitted]

The Soviet ambassador also met with Zayd Wahbah, secretary of the Palestinian national action leadership in Lebanon [Fatah representative in Lebanon]. Ambassador Ilichev reiterated the Soviet Union's support for the PLO to enable it represent the Palestinians at any international peace conference.

Zayd Wahbah said that the Soviet ambassador raised a number of issues concerning the international conference and expressed readiness to mediate in any problems that might emerge while regulating the Palestinian relations with Lebanon on a sound basis.

Buwayz Claims Israel Planning Offensive

PM2205143691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 May 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Buwayz Warns of Imminent Israeli Offensive"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has warned about an expected Israeli offensive on southern Lebanon in a bid to thwart the peace efforts being made in the Middle East. In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT before leaving Cairo yesterday he said that recent Israeli reinforcements on Lebanese borders in the South—which coincide with the Israeli defense minister's statements and allegations regarding Syria's swallowing up of Lebanon—confirm that Israel will carry out a military operation in southern Lebanon in order to avert international pressures on it to accept the convening of the international peace conference.

He added that the accord signed recently on cooperation between Syria and Lebanon confirms Syria's concern for the stability of peace in Lebanon and the full implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. He said that the scale of the Syrian forces mentioned in the statement is no news. It is the result of the al-Ta'if agreement, which Syria is playing a major role in helping the Lebanese authorities to implement. So Israel is trying, through its deployments, to put pressure on Syria to change its position on peace. The Lebanese minister announced that he will visit Iran in the next days to discuss the decision to disband the militias and the hostage problem. [passage omitted]

SLA's Lahd Calls Accord With Syria 'Surrender'

TA2005145291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander says that the agreement signed between the Lebanese Government and Syria is an accord amounting to a surrender, which restricts Lebanese sovereignty and abrogates its independence. In a talk with reporters in Marj 'Uyun, General Antoine Lahd said that, on the basis of the accord, Lebanon will be under Syrian control and that it will not be possible to call on Israel to withdraw from the security zone.

On UN Resolution, Dividing Lebanon

NC2205130091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 91

[Interview with Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent]

[Text] Staff Major General [title as heard] Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], believes that implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 is unlikely. He maintained that the future of South Lebanon will be gloomy if the Palestinians and other extremist organizations, like Hizballah, maintain their weapons and control and if anti-Israeli operations continue to be legalized.

In an exclusive interview with the Voice of Lebanon, Lahd said Israel objects to Lebanon's subservience to the Syrian leadership. Following are parts of the interview:

[Begin recording] [correspondent] Major General Lahd, how do you view the prospects of implementing UN Resolution 425 which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops, particularly since the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination has been signed?

[Lahd] Even before the treaty was signed, my view was that the implementation of Resolution 425 was unforeseen as long as the so-called resistance had the green light to conduct resistance operations in the region. I do not expect the resolution to be implemented as long as the resistance, whether Palestinian or other, continues in its present form. [end recording]

Asked if there is an undeclared Syrian-Israeli agreement to divide Lebanon, Lahd said:

[Begin Lahd recording] I do not believe that there is an agreement to divide Lebanon. However, if things continue on the present course, Lebanon would be divided

and everyone would [words indistinct]. If Israel is confronted with the faits accomplis—with Syria taking all Lebanon—it will take part of Lebanon's lands instead of leaving it all to Syria. [end recording]

Buwayz Holds News Conference on Return 18 May

NC1805182191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 May 91

[Impromptu news conference with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondents following his return to Beirut from Cairo, at Beirut Airport, on 18 May—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Minister Buwayz, you are returning from Cairo following a series of talks and consultations in the Egyptian capital. How do you assess the results of these contacts?

[Buwayz] As you know, my visit to Egypt had several objectives. We met with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, His Excellency Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and His Excellency Minister Butrus Ghali [Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs]. One aim was to discuss a number of issues connected with the regional situation and the Egyptian officials' talks with their U.S. counterparts. The second aim was to discuss several matters dealing with bilateral ties, including agricultural, economic, trade, and transport issues. In particular, we wanted to discuss the status of the Middle East Airlines in Egypt and EgyptAir flights to Lebanon. We also discussed the prospects of concluding a treaty for the extradition of criminals.

In addition, we attended the Arab League's foreign ministers' meeting which gave us the opportunity to hold numerous bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, the PLO, Jordan, Zimbabwe, and others. We discussed a number of issues, notably the promotion of bilateral ties. We asked that their embassies in Lebanon be reopened, that the issue of the international fund to aid Lebanon be revived. We received some promises from His Highness Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal who indicated that the first meeting of this fund will be held in the next few weeks. These promises also suggest that a large number of Western and Arab countries might contribute to the fund.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in connection with your meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, can you brief us on the U.S. views on the situation in Lebanon at this stage?

[Buwayz] As you know, first of all we talked to Secretary Baker about the implementation of Resolution 425. We also asked the foreign ministers with whom we met to support us on this particular issue. Secretary Baker assured us that he seriously raised this issue with the Israelis and in other countries. he said he is following up this issue in a way that might lead to its implementation within a reasonable time period.

[Correspondent] Israeli threats to southern Lebanon and to all of Lebanon in general exist today. What does Lebanese diplomacy intend to do to confront these aggressions and challenges?

[Buwayz] We do not believe there is any justification whatsoever for these threats. Indeed, we believe that these Israeli threats at this particular time might be connected with the regional efforts to convene a peace conference. Instead of going to a peace conference it does not intend to accept, Israel might try to upset matters by escalating the situation in the South. This is the only explanation we can give to these developments.

[Correspondent] How will you confront this issue?

[Buwayz] Of course, when we get some facts to back up our beliefs, the Lebanese state, the Foreign Ministry in particular, will act appropriately to deal with the issue.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, your meeting with representatives of the PLO leadership has been viewed as important. What are the major steps you have agreed on?

[Buwayz] The Palestinians expressed their willingness not to be an obstacle to the establishment of the Lebanese state's authority over all Lebanese territories, particularly in the South. They also informed us that they will not be an obstacle to the implementation of Resolution 425. We regard these statements as positive and hope that these words will turn into deeds. This is what we told the Palestinians. We also stressed that there is a clear and frank Cabinet decision to disband Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. We told them that this decision is drawn from the al-Ta'if agreement and it cannot be retracted and there can no return to the error represented by the Cairo agreement. We asked them to be responsive to this decision. We assured them that the Lebanese state, and this national accord government in particular, is very willing to reach understandings with them in order to guarantee the security of the Palestinian camps and the dignity of the Palestinians residing in Lebanon on the condition that the Council of Ministers' decisions are implemented.

We believe that camp security will be better protected under the aegis of Lebanese legitimacy than it is by the presence of a number of rifles and [words indistinct] weapons. We do not believe that camp security, in light of the Israeli aggressions, can be safeguarded against sophisticated combat aircraft with the existing Palestinian weapons. These are pretexts which we hope we will be able to eliminate in order to arrive at an extensive discussion of some issues.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister in your meetings with the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign ministers and the reports which you have seen, did you feel that the Lebanese issue has been put on the agenda of ongoing talks?

[Buwayz] Certainly, the Lebanese issue in general and the implementation of Resolution 425 are on the agenda

of most meetings. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, His Excellency Secretary Baker, and His Excellency Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid all told us that. I believe that more importance is being given to this issue than at any time in the past.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, will you accept the invitation you received to visit Saudi Arabia?

[Buwayz] Actually, I met with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal privately several times, on the sidelines of the Arab League foreign ministers' meetings. He conveyed to me an official invitation to visit the Kingdom. I promised to make the visit. We will together set a date for the visit at a later time.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, one last question. Did you carry a reply message from President Mubarak to His Excellency President al-Hirawi?

[Buwayz] Yes. It is a comprehensive message that deals with all the issues I have mentioned.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus Visit

NC2205171491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut this afternoon following the signing of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty in Damascus today.

Israeli Overflights, Shelling Reported 23 May

NC2305082191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Enemy Israeli warplanes have carried out frequent flights over the South and as far as Sidon since early this morning. The aircraft are flying reconnaissance over some southern areas.

Security sources in Tyre have reported that since last night the Israeli occupation forces have shelled Yatir from their positions in the occupied border strip. The sources said that 40 shells fell in the village. No one was killed.

Hizballah Marks 17 May Agreement Anniversary

NC1705145591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpts] Today is 17 May, the anniversary of the humiliating agreement the regime signed with the Zionist entity. The agreement surrendered to the Zionist entity's will and its conditions on the Lebanese. However, the mujahidin and patriots refused to live under the yoke of occupation. The abrogation of the agreement was a lesson to all the collaborators and a source of pride for the strugglers. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, Hizballah held a celebration at Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd in which His Eminence Shaykh Sayyid Barakah spoke about the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. He called for making the 17 May anniversary an inferno for the Americans, the Jews, and their allies in the region. He said this is the beginning of the era of Islam and the end of the era of the Americans and the Jews. There is no room for reconciliation with these enemies.

Speaking on behalf of the Islamic 'Ulema Grouping, His Eminence Shaykh Mahir Hammud said that the peace for the region that they are talking about is still remote, because Israel is intransigent and the American position is close to Israel's. He noted that the intifadah in Palestine needs people to promote and support it.

Speaking on behalf of Hizballah, His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, said that in order for Palestine to be liberated, all borders must first be opened and all barriers obstructing the mujahidin should be removed in order to fight the Zionist enemy. His eminence said: We will not wait until the rulers make a gesture to us and open the borders. We must destroy all the idols, who are led by the American beast.

Hizballah's secretary general noted that the current American diplomatic activity will remove the fig leaf covering the weaknesses of some people. Addressing those who signed the Camp David and the 17 May agreements, he asked: What do you want and how far will you go, now that the Jewish flag is flying next to the Arab League flag in Egypt? Is this a prelude to the liberation of Palestine? Is the decision to bring the American Army to the area also a prelude to the liberation of Palestine?

His Eminence Shaykh al-Tufayli said that the nation is languishing under the burden of real ignorance. The present era is the most bitter. We must bear the banner of the Prophet of God, may God's prayers be upon him and upon his scion, and unite in order to liberate our land, and establish a resistance movement to defend our dignity.

Al-Asad Gives Speech at Treaty Ceremony

JN2205191891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 May 91

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the signing of the "brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty" in Damascus on 22 May—recorded]

[Text] Brother Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon; brother Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; brother 'Umar Karami, Lebanese prime minister; brother ministers of the Council of Ministers in sisterly Lebanon:

I warmly welcome you on a day in which you came from your country Lebanon to your country Syria so that we all will meet, witness, participate in, and celebrate the signing of a decision you took and you documented. We, I and my brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi, sign the document that you endorsed and which was later endorsed by your brothers in the Syrian Council of Ministers—the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination.

We did not create what is between Syria and Lebanon; it was created by God. It was a common history, a common geography, and a united blood. Therefore, what we are building today together between the two countries is part of what is reflected by the common heritage, which can neither be removed nor erased with the passage of time, because it is a living fact that is unrelated to whether we live in one political entity or in two separate political entities. The two brothers remain brothers whether they live in one house or in two separate houses. Hence, we say we are one people, although we live in two separate independent states. Nobody can ignore this fact, because it would not be in the interest of any of the two independent states nor in the interest of the people living in them.

Brothers, the treaty is important because it removes the intense clouds surrounding us so the fact remains shining before everybody. This strengthens us in Syria and Lebanon and gives us the power to see and explain what is between us, including what took place throughout the long years of the civil war. Had it not been for our conviction that we are one people, we would not have had the motive to continue the multifaceted sacrifice throughout these years in defense of Lebanon against the foreign ambitions or to bury the sedition aimed against the Lebanese homeland—both land and people. National justice has always been our guiding principle, despite the fact that this matter was not always clear to all citizens in Lebanon.

The treaty is important because it represents a landmark in the framework of the joint march of the two countries. The treaty draws lines and lays down the bases on which to organize relations between them. This guarantees security and force in their relations and opens the horizons wide for a fraternal cooperation in all fields. The treaty creates the appropriate atmosphere to maintain what is good in our joint life and the vigor of the fraternal spirit that the enemies of Lebanon and Syria have always worked to tarnish and weaken in order to obstruct their progress, prosperity, and stability. This is because the clarity of the spirit of fraternity between the two countries and organizing their relations, based on this premise, will achieve success, progress, prosperity, security, and stability.

The treaty is a great work that paves the path for cooperation on all levels. It will serve the two countries on an equal footing in a spirit of fraternity and mutual interest, because this treaty organizes mutual concessions between the two countries that will achieve their well-being and increase their capabilities.

We believe that what is good for Lebanon is also good for Syria, and what is good for Syria is good for Lebanon. Security and development in one of the two countries should be reflected on the other sisterly country.

Your efforts to implement the provisions of the accord document are great, valuable, and important, because they saved Lebanon from the atmosphere of the civil war, which has become something of the past. It also opened a wide road to peace—the peace of Lebanon, toward which you have taken large steps. We have cooperated in moving toward it together. I think that we, and the Lebanese people, feel a great difference between what now exists in Lebanon and what existed there in the past. Yet all of us have great duties that should be given the efforts they deserve. We will do that and we will carry out the duty.

Your efforts and what you achieved in the areas of legislation, domestic reforms, creating a large area of security, establishing and activating the government institutes, exercising constitutional authority, and spreading much of the government authority over Lebanese territory as part of efforts to spread them over all Lebanon's territory are great efforts and blessed results.

In the name of Syria's people and their government and in my own name, I thank you and I congratulate you on what you have done and what you have achieved. I believe that the fraternal Lebanese people, who experienced the past events, who remember what was there, see what is there now, and feel great difference between the present and the past, will certainly appreciate your efforts.

Some may say that what you are doing is your duty. This is true and cannot be argued. But he who carries out his duty deserves thanks and congratulation. The problem is that we in Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab homeland do not all carry out our duty. Otherwise, we would have been prosperous. Absence of amity, at most times, toward our duties is a fatal disease, and the reverse is an effective remedy.

O brothers, the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination, which you have achieved after much discussion in which you participated through bilateral or tripartite meetings, through a committee or committees you set up in the Council of Ministers, through cabinet sessions, and after your lengthy discussions you decided to approve the treaty in the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of fraternal Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The Syrian Council of Ministers then discussed and approved the treaty.

This brotherly and pan-Arab treaty is a great achievement that will serve the citizens of the both countries' citizens and will reinforce their status and interests. I believe that this treaty has created a new era of purity, amity, cooperation, and brotherhood. I say that we will exert every effort for the sake of Lebanon's interest. We are determined to support it in both good and bad times, regardless of the difficulties and sacrifices. We will also extend every support to the legitimate government to spread its authority over all Lebanese territory. I also say that Syria supports all Lebanese, all Lebanon, and every Lebanese without prejudice or discrimination. How can we discriminate among Lebanese citizens at a time when we say that we are one people in the two countries? My assertion is not a new one, but a new reminder.

Brothers, let us march together hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder to realize quickly the peaceful march in Lebanon, to reinforce the Syrian-Lebanese brotherhood, and to establish a Syrian- Lebanese cooperation in the best manner. We share a special moment of happiness as we celebrate the signing of a great achievement. I thank, appreciate, and congratulate brother Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi; I thank, appreciate, and congratulate brother Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; I thank, appreciate, and congratulate brother Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami; I thank, appreciate, and congratulate the Lebanese brother ministers; and finally, I congratulate all the Lebanese and Syrian citizens. Peace be upon you.

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Speaks at Treaty Ceremony

NC2205184791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 91

[Speech by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi following the signing of the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty with Syria in Damascus on 22 May—recorded]

[Text] My brother Your Excellency Mr. President, my brother vice presidents, Mr. People's Assembly Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, brother ministers:

Congratulations to our two fraternal people on their choice and accomplishment. Yesterday we announced the beginning of the peace march in Lebanon. Today we announce in Syria the beginning of the process to organize the march of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination.

Your Excellency Mr. President, I have pursued cooperation and openness as my course of action and adopted dialogue and reconciliation as my political approach. This course and this approach are Lebanon's destiny. A state built on accord and cohesion among its sons can harbor enough integrity and strength to embark freely on cooperation and coordination with the entire world, and certainly with its brothers.

The past 16 years have shown that no solution is possible in Lebanon other than that of national reconciliation. Long years and political realities have shown that organizing relations between Lebanon and Syria frankly and courageously on the basis of common interests and mutual respect for the full sovereignty of each fraternal state is far better that perpetuating the situation that existed in the past.

It is men who make history and lead their people in the direction of fraternal relations and prosperity. Just as I have firmly confronted the storms of discord and the risks of partition and have refused to engage in one-upmanship over Lebanon's unity and independence, today I embark on organizing the march of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between our two countries on the basis of freedom.

Freedom in the modern world does not mean an absence of responsibility. It means being free for the sake of a higher common interest. We in Lebanon do not seek greatness if the price is discord, disorder, and laxity. We seek cooperation to preserve our dignity, to establish peace, and to provide a prosperous life for our sons.

Mr. President, if some believe that politics are based on maneuvering and twisted ways, we prove that politics are an act of loyalty and honesty to ourselves, our people, and the future.

The 21st century brings with it a test of cohesion and solidarity for the sake of stability and survival. Why should we not dedicate all our resources to cooperation and the embodiment of fraternity in an accomplishment that the future generations deserve and to drawing up a practical program for change and reconstruction?

Individual initiative must be the starting point and collective cooperation must embody the dream of promoting fraternity and freedom.

The Arabs and the entire world have appreciated Syria's stand on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, rejecting the swallowing of one country by another. Lebanon, which reached out for Syria's help to overcome conflicts and lack of cohesion, should understand the sense of responsibility that prompted this Syrian stand.

To embody this spirit, we signed today the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty, the words of which were derived from the national accord document and which guarantees recognition of Lebanon as a fully

sovereign state and recognition of Syria's sacrifices for the sake of supporting Lebanon's unity and establishing peace in it.

How long will we suffer from an irrational fear of opening up to the world, beginning with our brothers? The Lebanese, who have filled the world with their creative work and who have assumed the highest positions in the scientific, cultural, political, and economic spheres wherever they went have enough greatness to make them strugglers by nature. They have always been pioneers in making the history that reflects their aspiration for progress.

We will not wait until the Europe of 1992 comes. We will not ask ourselves how our situation compares with Latin America's solidarity and its treaties with the United States, or how we compare with the Gulf Cooperation Council and other similar councils about which we have no time to speak here.

I tell the doubters: Have no fear, because Lebanon is larger than your doubts. With the will of all Lebanese, it is the ultimate homeland of all the Lebanese people. It is too impregnable to be assimilated and too lofty to be changed.

Mr. President, cooperation was a reality between us even before these documents were written. Among its achievements was the assistance you extended to us to halt the bloodshed and infighting, to revive the legitimate authorities, to reestablish the state, to restore the constitutional institutions so they can carry out their tasks and responsibilities, to open up the various areas to each other, and to reinforce confidence in the future. The phenomenon of emigration and displacement has ended. Indeed, the return of Lebanese people to their homeland has begun as a prelude to the process of reconstruction.

This cooperation with you and the other brothers and friends must be developed to complete our national domestic mission, the consolidation of the Lebanese state's authority over all Lebanese territory so we can restore its national purity to our dear south by seeking to implement the UN resolutions in this connection. In this way we will have implemented the national accord document on which all Lebanese have agreed, which enjoys complete Arab and international support, and for which Syria has shown its support with sacrifices of blood.

My brother, Your Excellency Mr. President, just as Lebanese and Syrian blood intermingled in our passage from war to peace, it behooves us all to build and seek progress in the context of the peace process. The economic situation in Lebanon and Syria makes it necessary—out of loyalty to our two peoples—to cooperate in a quest to achieve a standard of living in our two countries that is worthy of our citizens at a time when a new era is dawning that makes growth and development dependent on the establishment of large economic groups.

We are committed to a free economy and are seeking to develop and improve it. Cooperation between two parties is a recognition of each. Each strengthens the other.

As Lebanon emerges today from rubble and ruin, it looks forward to coordination with fraternal Syria to safeguard the two countries' security, bolster the two fraternal peoples' internal security, and deter any unexpected foreign aggression.

Lebanon looks forward to the future. We are about to establish new traditions that will translate into actual fact the concepts of fraternity and cooperation vis-a-vis major challenges. This is our pledge. As we succeeded together in ending the war, I am confident that we will succeed in establishing for future generations the foundations of openness and that we will close together a chapter that would not have occurred, and should not have occurred, had the officials of our two countries dealt with this chapter courageously since 1920.

It is time to finish laying the solid and proper foundations that guarantee our internal security so we may begin playing our pioneering role within the Arab family and in the world at large, thus contributing to a sound international peace based on right and justice.

We are approaching a new age—an age that is new in its changes, calculations, and aspirations. We can either move forward with it or fall behind. Lebanon has always been a pioneer in understanding the spirit of the age.

It gives me the greatest satisfaction to see two countries, at this historic moment, which are loyal to the inner feelings of our fraternal peoples and which at all times and in all circumstances remained close and cooperative. Let us together raise Lebanon's and Syria's flags to fly high over fraternity and amity. [applause]

Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Give News Conference

JN2205182491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1544 GMT 22 May 91

["Proceedings" of news conference by President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi with reporters after signing the "brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination" treaty in Damascus on 22 May—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Your Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi: Please allow us, in the name of the journalists, to congratulate you on this splendid pan-Arab achievement, which is a culmination of past struggle, a proof of a reality, and a new brick in the fortress of joint-Arab action to strengthen relations between the sons of our people in the two fraternal countries—relations that are as strong as Qasiyun here and al-Arz there [mountains in Syria and Lebanon respectively]. Your Excellency President al-Hirawi: Please give us an assessment of what you achieved today. Thank you.

[Al-Hirawi] Your are welcome. In Lebanon, we say that journalism is the fourth estate.

[Al-Asad] And in Syria, as we know.

[Al-Hirawi] While I am very pleased by this historic step, I regret that it was not done before. I wished to go ahead of history and time to achieve it, because by achieving it, we will have fulfilled our promise to our sons and our generations. Although it is a little late, it has come at a time when Lebanon has begun its peaceful march to unify itself, its army, and its sons in a framework of cooperation and amity by forgetting the residue of 16 years of foreign interference in Lebanese domestic affairs. I hope, after today's achievement, which is, in my view, a consecration of achievements and sacrifices by sisterly Syria toward its brother Lebanon. [sentence as heard] What we have done was inspired by our conscience and our faith in this march. I hope that God will grant complete success, which is proved through the application and leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, my brother. I would like to announce here that whatever the relations and the treaties may be—one page or 100 pages—the application is prompted by goodwill and sincere intentions of officials in both countries. We were sincere even before His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and I signed any paper. Our march today, which has resulted in satisfaction in the Lebanese arena, in ending the conflict, and in silencing the guns and the sounds of shells, was achieved with the help of Syria led by my brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I congratulate our two dear peoples, and I must mention the sacrifices and blood offered by the Syrian Arab Army in Lebanon. But this blood yielded its fruits, and we did not shed it in vain. I hope that cooperation will take place on security, economic, and political levels in the best manner. This coordination is the result of cooperation and understanding between his excellency the president and me. I hope that the two honorable governments and parliaments will take the same step in the same spirit through which we achieve solidarity. Thank you.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: How can this treaty contribute to future relations between Syria and Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] We always say, what is between Syria and Lebanon is more important than any past, present, or future document. As I said a short while ago, what is between us is the creation of God and not us.

History states that we are one people. This is how we were in the past and how we will continue to be, whether in one country, two independent countries, or in more than that. As I have just said, brothers remain brothers whether they live in one house or in two separate houses. We are not affected by the small things that are said here or there about our relationship with Lebanon. We are motivated by popular conscience, pan-Arab conscience. We believe that in the final analysis we are one nation in this region, the Arab nation.

At a time when large gatherings exist in this world as we see everywhere, in the West and East, in Third World countries, in Africa, and in our region also to a certain extent, at such a time, it seems that we are late in signing what we have signed, as my brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said. I must say that thanks to brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi, this treaty was accomplished at an appropriate time. He did this because he saw that it was in the interest of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs in the final outcome. It would not have been possible to embark on such a step if we had found it to be against the interests of our people in Lebanon. We, along with President al-Hirawi and Lebanese officials, took this step because they saw in it a Lebanese, Syrian, and eventually an Arab, interest.

At a time when people gather everywhere for economic, cultural, and political needs, as well as for security needs, at such a time I say that we have to precede the rest because of a clear, well-known substantive reason; namely, what exists between Syria and Lebanon does not exist between the others, whom I refer to in my speech. Despite this, the treaty is a great accomplishment. It lays down a basis for a purer atmosphere in the future and an active atmosphere that I believe will push forward the joint march in all its aspects and dimensions. This will be beneficial to all Lebanese and all Syrians. When I say beneficial I do not mean monetarily. This is not the case. It is beneficial to life itself in all its aspects, which are more precious than pennies.

Had we not felt deep in our hearts that we are one people, it would never have been possible for us to continue for more than 15 years offering sacrifices in blood and money in defense of Lebanon.

It is correct that Lebanon is a neighborly country, but look at the Syrian border and you will find other neighborly states. We wish good for every neighbor and for all people who are either far or close to these borders. However, I do not believe that the Syrian people are ready to sacrifice for the sake of all the countries that have a common border with us as we sacrifice for the sake of Lebanon. That is for one reason, and I repeat it again; namely, we are one people.

A short while ago, I was speaking with Lebanese and Syrian ministers. I said that at the beginning of the civil war, in the first month, approximately 600,000 persons emigrated from Lebanon to Syria. We formed a ministerial committee; it was to run or facilitate the affairs of those immigrants from our brothers in Lebanon. Days later, this committee, which was responsible directly to me, returned and said to me: We solved the problem. I asked: How have you accomplished this so quickly when they are not a few in number; they are 600,000? They said: We were responsible for 100,000 only, and 500,000 are now living with their relatives in all Syrian governorates, from the furthest south to the furthest north, and from the furthest west to the furthest east. These are 500,000 out of 600,000. If another 600,000 persons immigrated, they would find relatives in the same percentage.

This situation does not exist in the other countries that have come together. I do not want to go into the details of history. Many of you know it as well as I do. However, I say that we should build the future on this history and look at it through a common view. This joint building, which we should build properly, is our strength and prosperity in our various aspects of life.

We want goodness, pride, progress, and prosperity for Lebanon in all fields of life. Syria will do its utmost for the sake of Lebanon. In the al-Ta'if agreement also, we reaffirmed our concern for Lebanon's independence. If this is not the case....[changes thought] It is not our objective at all; our objective is to reinforce the relations of brothers. Our objective is to see the Lebanese family, which has direct and close branches as well as indirect and remote branches, maintaining connections, amicability, and love with its branch in Syria. We also want the Syrian family to maintain the same relations. We will find in the end that the people of Lebanon will remain very close to their relatives in Syria, just as the people of Syria will remain very close and connected with their relatives in Lebanon.

What we have done today is a great work that everyone in Syria and Lebanon will safeguard. Our various meetings over a long time, not only today, have reaffirmed our determination to continue this road and to develop every program, work, or agreement that will give momentum to fraternal cordial relations between Lebanon and Syria. Thank you. If there are any questions, feel free to ask us.

[Ustuwani] Salwa Ustuwani from the BBC: Mr. President: To what extent do you believe that this treaty could help in liberating or contribute to the liberation of southern Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] Southern Lebanon?

[Ustuwani] Yes.

[Al-Asad] As I have said, we have been fighting in Lebanon for the past 15 years to defend it, whether in confronting external invasion or in facing internal sedition. I think that by cooperation between the Syrians and Lebanese, great successes have been realized. Today is not like yesterday, as you can see. The same thing applies to the future.

[Reporter] Mr. President, with respect to the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon, which coincided with the approaching signing of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty, how do you expect this escalation to develop? Moreover, how will you support the Lebanese Government in the face of any Israeli military eventuality in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] We are not giving away a secret when we say that Israel has no desire at all to calm the situation in Lebanon or to end the bloodbaths that have gone on there for many long years. While following developments continuously, Israel has begun to see that Lebanon has actually begun to come out... [rephrases] made long strides along the path of what I termed Lebanon's peace. The state institutions are now in possession of many things that allow them to perform their missions. As in the past, Syria will continue to support these institutions as much as they desire. It is not in Israel's interest to see the situation stabilize in Lebanon. It is not in Israel's interest to see Lebanon return as a state that has the capabilities of a state for numerous security, economic, and other reasons. Hence, when Israeli officials make such a glaring fuss, they think of what benefits them rather than of what benefits Lebanon. They think of what harms Lebanon and Syria and serves Israel. On the other hand, the Israelis have failed to respond favorably to the international community's desire to achieve peace and work for peace. It is well known throughout the world that Israel is the party that is obstructing the peace process. In this regard, the Israelis have a vested interest in speaking of or creating a situation that would provide cover for their rejection of peace and for their pursuit of policies in conflict with the policies being pursued by the entire world.

Therefore, they want to create an issue and talk of an issue, which, they think, once it is shuffled, will preoccupy the world and make it forget the Israeli rejection of the efforts made by the international community to achieve peace in the Middle East. All observers believe that Israel does not accept anything, does not accept anything [al-Asad repeats himself]. In the past, we spoke of the number of the no's of some people in the region. As for the number of Israeli no's, it takes an effort to count them. They reject the PLO, an independent Palestinian delegation. All these are no's: No to the PLO, no to an independent Palestinian delegation, no to the participation of the Palestinians of Jerusalem in any peace negotiations, no to the formation of a delegation that does not obtain the prior approval of Israel, and no to the United Nations. This is the strangest thing. Israel is a member of the United Nations. The United Nations is not a country, it is the world. More than this, Israel itself was born in accordance with a UN resolution. Nevertheless, it rejects UN participation in a peace conference.

Israel says no to Europe. Recently, some said Israel would agree to Europe's participation as an observer. I do not think the Europeans will accept this, because it will undermine their dignity, as I see it. Therefore, no to Europe and no to returning the occupied territories. Therefore, on what will the peace talks be held; about what? No to the international conference. No to any conference seeking peace.

They agreed to a ceremonial party, if that is the word. They want the participants to come, be they from the parties directly concerned or from the other states that we might call mediating states, such as the United States and the Soviet Union. They want us to hold a preliminary ceremonial party and then everyone will go home. Does this have any meaning related to a peace conference? The members of this conference, which is called a peace conference, will not be able to discuss peace. How

can we call it a peace conference? Therefore, they also say: No to the peace conference.

As I have said, It is difficult for me to remember their no's, which are many. The most glaring of these no's—they are all glaring—is the rejection of UN participation. How can a state that rejects the UN participation be desirous of peace? How can a state that rejects UN participation be working for implementing UN resolutions?

Therefore, they want to cover this by talking about any other issue. It seems that they have found this in the issue with which we are dealing; namely, the Syrian-Lebanese treaty. This issue is useful as a cover. These two reasons—covering their intransigent attitude and disturbing the peaceful march in Lebanon—are, in my opinion, behind Israel's strident clamor these days.

[Reporter] [name indistinct] of AL-NAHAR. Do you believe that the circumstances are conducive to going ahead in implementing the treaty and then implementing the other al-Ta'if agreement provisions, despite obstacles and hindrances?

[Al-Asad] I think these hindrances should rather be additional incentives for the officials in both countries to proceed quickly along this path—implement the treaty and carry out everything that was mentioned in the national charter or the al-Ta'if agreement—and not the opposite. This clamor, these obstacles are a positive indicator and a clear pointer to the correct path that we in Syria and Lebanon should follow. We are actually following this path.

[Reporter] [name indistinct] Monte Carlo. Mr. President, if you please, is there any connection between the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement provisions and the peace efforts in the Middle East? Is there any connection between the two?

[Al-Asad] Of course, in the final analysis we are interlinked in this region. However, the link is not direct. There may be a certain side that finds or thinks that it is in its interest to link one issue with the other. This happens and we do not want to go into details or to name anybody. However, objectively we say that separation [of the two issues] is the stronger of the two. This, as you are aware, has been Syria's opinion for many years. What happens in Lebanon is an internal issue that has its causes. What happens in other places is another issue that also has its causes. When we deal with one of the two issues, we give a momentum to dealing with the other, and not vice versa.

Many people, or at least some, did not share this same opinion with us. We do not know if the positions have changed.

[Reporter] What is the reality of the U.S. position on the treaty between Lebanon and Syria?

[Al-Asad] As you know, they have been supporting the al-Ta'if document, and the al-Ta'if document provides for establishing distinguished relations between Syria and Lebanon. I have not heard anything that would indicate a negative position, because they support the national reconciliation charter.

[Reporter] Have settlement efforts in the Middle East deteriorated?

[Al-Asad] The settlement efforts have not made enough progress for them to deteriorate. In light of what is seen, it is still at the same place. It has neither moved forward or backward. Despite this, we hope it will move forward. This has been our position for many years. Syria has always called for a peaceful solution based on UN resolutions, particularly UN Resolutions 242 and 338 with the participation of the United Nations, Europe, the United States, and the USSR, and of course the concerned parties. Any no to any of these elements is a rejection by the others of the peace process.

[Reporter] There is a precedent to the implementation of international resolutions by force: The al-Ta'if agreement is a Lebanese, Arab, and international responsibility: The implementation of Resolution 425 is a part of the al-Ta'if agreement. Will there be Arab and international pressure to implement this resolution?

[Al-Asad] The Arabs, no doubt, support the implementation of Resolution 425. We are speaking with the other countries to this effect, I mean we in Syria and Lebanon. Open channels always exist with brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi. We have constant coordination and cooperation. As for the rest, we try to urge them to tackle this issue and other issues using one standard, as we have said in the region during the past recent months in particular. Up to this time, we are still speaking with them, and we hope for the best.

[Reporter] Two ministers were absent today from the treaty-signing ceremony, which implies they are taking a position by expressing their reservations on the mechanism of implementing the treaty. Is there anything that would reassure them?

[Al-Hirawi] I hope you will address the question to those who were absent.

[Reporter] Some people wager on a deterioration in Syrian-U.S. relations and on the repercussions that would have on the situation in Lebanon and on what was accomplished in Lebanese-Syrian relations. How true is this wagering?

[Al-Asad] You know that in the past, relations deteriorated, but they have improved in recent years. We did not say we would undermine these relations, and they did not say they would undermine them. We do not intend to do so, and they have said that they do not intend to do so. On the contrary, we want to improve these relations and they express the same desire. In light of what I see and what I feel, I cannot say that we are on the verge of deterioration.

[Reporter] Will you visit Lebanon soon?

[Al-Asad] Of course, Lebanon is our country.

[Reporter] Yesterday, Israeli Minister Sharon announced that the Israeli Government will double the settlements in occupied Golan. In your opinion, how will this affect the peace process in the Middle East and the international efforts in this regard?

[Al-Asad] Nothing. Nothing, because the peace process could either move completely or be frozen completely. It is not just now that they have built settlements for the settler invaders. They have built settlements over many years. This will have no effect. Our land is ours. Nobody can devour it, no matter how strong his stomach is. Arab thorns cannot be digested by any stomach, even if it is Sharon's stomach.

[Reporter] We thank their excellencies the two presidents for the precious time that was granted to our fellow journalists.

[Al-Asad] I would like to talk further with you, but the Lebanese and Syrian Governments are waiting.

Al-Hirawi Departs 22 May

JN2205170091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his delegation left Damascus at 1715 today.

Leading those who saw him off at the western entrance to Damascus was His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He was also seen off by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Israeli 'Threats' Reason To Enforce Treaty

JN2305145491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Syrian-Lebanese brotherhood has never been demonstrated in such a strong form as it was yesterday, the moment Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi signed the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty.

This is because all Lebanon was in Damascus, and the hearts of the Lebanese and the Syrians everywhere were beating for the historic meeting, blessing the great achievement and, at the same time, looking toward the bright future of the twin countries, the foundations of which are trust, cooperation, and support on all levels in a manner that would consolidate Syrian-Lebanese invincibility and terrify enemies and those who entertain ambitions in the land and its wealth.

What added a special significance to the meeting and magnified the importance of the brotherhood treaty was that Syrians and Lebanese have responded to the threats of the Israeli enemy with obvious contempt and determination to pursue the march of solidarity and consolidate the immortal ties linking the two countries—ties that have been woven by common history, geography, blood, and the great sacrifices and common suffering. These ties, moreover, belong to the one people who were separated in two independent states because of circumstances and developments.

Relations between Syria and Lebanon woven by subsequent ages are stronger than any document or treaty. However, the treaty signed by Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi is a great act that lives up to the level of the two countries' ambitions. Syrian-Lebanese relations have always been subject to conspiracies and intrigues by those who entertain ambitions in our land and its wealth. The best evidence of this is the great sedition that afflicted fraternal Lebanon for 16 years and was about to destroy its independence and sovereignty and tear apart its unity, had it not been for Syria's rapid rescue of the Lebanese and leader al-Asad's lofty, unshakable stance when he put all Syria's capabilities at the disposal of the brothers and dispatched Syrian forces to the fraternal country to put out the fire of the civil war and foil the criminal Zionist scheme.

Syrian forces fought valiantly in defense of Lebanese territory against the Zionist invaders and offered great amounts of blood when President al-Hirawi sought the assistance of these forces to end the hotbed of rebellion and advance the march of unification and salvation.

These sacrifices have borne fruit, as President al-Hirawi rightly declared. The evidence of this is that Lebanon today restored its well-being and made decisive, basic strides along the path of accord, sovereignty, security, and stability.

The brotherhood treaty, which provides for a series of mutual commitments, periodic meetings, permanent committees, and coordination, will lay the foundations for deep, comprehensive cooperation that includes all fields, satisfies all ambitions, achieves affluence and prosperity, and, at the same time, will shut the door in the face of any aliens who entertain ambitions or any sinful aggressor.

When we review the recent threats of the enemy in the past days, we sense how nervous Israeli officials have become as they watch today with their own eyes the downfall of their sectarian, partitionist scheme to burn down Lebanon, Syria, and the region, seize Arab territory, and pillage its wealth. There is no doubt that the Israelis, as leader al-Asad has rightly explained, are seeking at the same time to cover up their big crime against humanity and the international community represented in their rejection of peace and their determination to pursue Nazi, bestial practices against the Palestinians and Lebanese and pursue their expansion and aggression without being deterred by any law or moral scruples.

The U.S. secretary of state himself, who toured the region four times seeking peace, has acknowledged that Israeli settlement and expansionist schemes are the obstacle to achieving peace and that Israel has responded to all his peace efforts by setting up more settlements. Perhaps the strangest thing is that the brotherhood treaty that regulates Syrian-Lebanese relations has been considered by Israel as a pretext to double settlements in the Golan and to declare that it will keep the occupied southern part of fraternal Lebanon.

Therefore, Israeli threats can only constitute a new, strong motivation to enforce the brotherhood treaty between Lebanon and Syria in all its clauses and achieve more strength and impregnability for the two countries in the face of a usurping enemy that respects neither law nor principle.

Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi have indeed lived up to the level of the historic mission and the two fraternal countries' aspirations. They have also been very clear in focusing on Syrian-Lebanese cooperation as a certain guarantee for the two countries—cooperation that has proved its effectiveness in the past and will prove to be more effective in the future.

Reportage on Al-Shar' Visit to Luxembourg

WA2205180591

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Luxembourg to visit EC headquarters, including reports on his talks with the European troika consisting of the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Italy, please see the International Affairs section of the 22 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bangladesh

Pact Signed With U.S. on Relief Mission

BK2005160091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The chairperson of International Disaster Advisory Committee and wife of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Mrs. Marilyn Quayle, will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. She will be accompanied by a group of 12 officials.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and the United States today entered in an agreement giving diplomatic immunity to the American task force engaged in relief operations in cyclone-affected areas. After signing a memorandum of understanding to this effect, a Foreign Office spokesman said the U.S. troops can now move anywhere in the country in fulfilling their relief mission.

Parties To Protest

BK1605044291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] In Bangladesh various political parties and organizations have expressed concern over the arrival of about 8,000 U.S. Marines in Dhaka last night for doing relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone affected areas. The Left parties have warned that they will stage a sit-in strike and demonstrate with black flags against their presence because the Bangladesh Army is quite competent to do the relief work.

Our Dhaka correspondent reports that the overall flood situation in Sylhet and Netrakona continues to be grim following inundation of new areas by River Kusiara and incessant rain in (Sanchuganj) area. So far, 55,000 people have taken refuge in 27 flood shelters in the district.

President, Prime Minister Regret Gandhi Death

BK2205132291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has expressed his shock at the sudden death of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in a bomb explosion. In a message to Indian President R. Venkataraman, the acting president described the assassination as a dastardly crime. He said I find no language strong enough to condemn. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said as a national leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi maintained high ideals and principles of democracy and secularism (?in the light of) many odds. The acting president said in the death of Mr. Gandhi, India has lost a great Indian in the real sense. He expressed his heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a condolence message to the Indian prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said we have been deeply shocked to learn about the tragic death of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. She said for his outstanding contribution to his nation as well as in the cause of regional and international peace and amity he will be long remembered. Describing him as a brave leader and an uncompromising advocate of democratic values, Begum Zia said the people of Bangladesh are indebted to him for his sincere efforts to strengthen Bangladesh-India relations. She expressed her heartfelt sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

In a separate message to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, wife of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock and outrage at the sudden demise of her illustrious husband. Begum Zia prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

In a condolence message, Awami League chief and leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina said the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi is a political one. Political killings will not bring any credit to any country. Sheikh Hasina said this killing is a threat to democracy and (?politics in Asia). She said the people of India have lost a great democratic leader and an illustrious son of the soil. His killing is a threat to parliamentary democracy and unity of India. Sheikh Hasina expressed her heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

Prime Minister To Attend Funeral

BK2305015091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0110 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, will attend the funeral of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi tomorrow. This was officially announced in Dhaka last night.

Former Premier Arrested 16 May, Sent To Jail

BK1605125891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed was arrested in Dhaka Thursday [16 May] and was sent to Dhaka Central Jail. He was elected in the recent parliamentary polls and was wanted by police under the Special Powers Act.

Former Foreign Minister Surrenders 19 May

BK2005035291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The former Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, who was in hiding for the last six months, yesterday surrendered to the Dhaka Central Jail authorities.

Mr. Mahmud, one of the close associates of the deposed president, General Ershad, was in the wanted list of the police. Police sources said in Dhaka that he has been put under detention for 120 days.

India

Further on Aftermath of Gandhi Assassination

Sonia Gandhi Declines Appointment

BK2305104491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 23 (AFP)—The Italian-born widow of slain former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi has declined to be president of the Congress (I) party, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Thursday.

Mrs. Gandhi was offered the post following the death of Mr. Gandhi in a bomb blast late Tuesday in southern India.

Mrs. Gandhi said in a statement here that the tragedy that had befallen her and her two children did not make it possible for her to accept the party leadership.

But she added that she was "deeply touched" by the "trust placed on her" by the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

Police Investigation Continues

BK2205171691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—Forensic experts piecing together clues from the site where ex-premier Rajiv Gandhi died in a blast say a woman with a bomb strapped to her body could have assassinated the politician.

Home Ministry officials here cited evidence found so far —shreds of clothes, burnt cords and a broken tiara— from the site in southern India as indicating that the bomb was possibly attached to the body of a woman also killed in the blast.

The possibility of a kamikaze act, the officials say, is one of several angles of investigation being explored jointly by federal and Tamil Nadu State police investigators in the Tuesday night blast that killed Mr. Gandhi and 16 others, and injured 50.

The explosion, which created a crater one metre deep (three feet), tore out the front of an unidentified woman, suggesting the bomb was either strapped to her or she was inches away from it when the blast occurred.

The explosion blasted away part of Mr. Gandhi's head and knees and severed the woman's head, which flew some 50 feet (16 metres) away. The injuries to others were mainly in the torso.

Detectives earlier had speculated that the bomb could have been concealed in one of the many garlands or bouquets presented to him and was triggered by a low frequency radio signal, adding that Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels were high on a list of suspicion because of their expertise in such assassinations.

The LTTE, which assassinated Sri Lanka's Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne earlier this year with a sophisticated landmine in Colombo, has a women's unit called the Birds of Freedom also fighting Sinhalese troops in the island's northeast.

Suicide Squad Suspected

BK2305032491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Agency reports say a suicide squad led by a young woman acting as a live bomb might have triggered off the explosion which led to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi at Sriperumbudur near Madras on Tuesday night. Quoting official sources, the agencies add that a team of forensic and bomb experts found wires, a spring, and a battery at the blast site. The remnants of these items are said to have been strapped around the torso of the woman whose identity is yet to be established. A waist belt, part of a detonator, and the time device have also reportedly been recovered. When contacted, the Home Ministry sources in New Delhi declined to comment on the present state of the investigations, saying these are at a preliminary stage.

State Mourning Period Announced

BK2205172691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The nation is observing a seven-day state mourning as a mark of respect to the former prime minister. All central government offices and educational institutions remained closed today. Several state governments have declared official mourning. The national flag is flying at half-mast all over the country.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered the closure of all schools and colleges in Jammu region till Friday [24 May]. The Karnataka Government has announced that the state government offices and educational institutions will remain closed tomorrow also.

Political Leaders Condemn Assassination

BK2205170491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Condolence messages from several leaders and political parties are pouring in. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, said the parliament will miss forever the resounding voice of hope and sanity.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has described the assassination as an attack on democracy and human values.

The Shahi Imam [prayer leader] of Jama Masjid [mosque], Syed Abdullah Bukhari, has appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

The head of the Nirankari Mission [Sikh sociopolitical and religious organization], Baba Hardeo Singh, has called upon the people to rise against the cult of violence and hatred.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has appealed to all sections of the people to maintain peace and harmony. In a statement, the Politburo of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has urged the people to exercise restraint in this hour of tragedy.

The Samajwadi Janata Party, in its national executive meeting in New Delhi, described the assassination as an act of cowardice.

The governing council of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] has also expressed its deep sorrow over the sudden and untimely death of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

The RSS [Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh] chief, Mr. Balasaheb Deoras, has strongly condemned the killing of the Congress president and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that the assassination has hit the nation like a bolt from the blue. He told newsmen in New Delhi that the cult of violence should be countered by collective action on the part of leaders of all political parties.

The BJP National Executive, in a resolution condemned the dastardly assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, described it as an insufferable outrage upon our culture, values, and democratic order. Senior party leaders, Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today met the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and discussed the prevailing situation and the security environment in the country in the light of the current developments.

Leaders Discuss Political Situation

BK2305035091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Leaders of various political parties had separate meetings with the president, Mr. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] yesterday. They include the National Front convener, Mr. V.P. Singh; BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee; and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu. While no official details about the meetings are available, they are understood to have discussed the political situation arising out of the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. A Congress-I delegation led by Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, is scheduled to call on the president today to apprise him of the party's views on the current situation.

The political affairs committee of the Janata Dal is holding an emergency meeting in New Delhi today to take stock of the political situation. The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, is also reaching the capital today.

President, Leaders Meet

BK2305043491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1858 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—Slain former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party implicitly opposed the concept of a broad-based national government revived by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman Wednesday.

Congress (I) spokeswoman Margaret Alva disclaimed knowledge of discussions that Mr. Venkataraman held with leaders of left- and right-wing parties on the possibility of forming a government composed of diverse parties.

"We are in the midst of a national election. We know we will get the majority in the elections to form a government so why should we think of an alternative?" she said.

Mrs. Alva said a Congress (I) delegation led by senior leader P.V. Narasimha Rao would meet the 80-year-old president here Thursday to discuss "all issues arising out of the present circumstances."

Congress (I) President Mr. Gandhi was killed in a bomb attack Tuesday on a campaign visit to the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, a day after the first phase of balloting in India's general elections.

The second and third rounds of polling, scheduled for Thursday and Sunday, were postponed until June 12 and 15 following the assassination.

Political sources confirmed a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) report that Mr. Venkataraman had met leaders of the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) and the left-wing Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M).

The sources said Mr. Venkataraman had revived his previous proposal for a national government, which he first mooted in the aftermath of a political crisis that saw the fall of the Vishwanath Pratap Singh government in November.

Present at the meeting were Jyoti Basu of the CPI-M, India's most powerful left party, and BJP senior leaders Lal Krishan Advani and Atal Behari Vajpayee. Their response to Mr. Venkataraman's proposal was not immediately known.

The sources said Mr. V.P. Singh, leader of the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), had also met the president. This could not immediately be confirmed.

The concept of a national government has in the past been seen to be an impossibility mainly because of antagonism between the far left and the extreme right.

Politicians Continue Consultations

BK2305080491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Political parties are continuing informal consultations in the capital on the situation arising out of the assassination of the former prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Leaders of various parties have also been meeting the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and are understood to have discussed the political situation.

A Congress-I delegation led by Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao called on the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] this morning. The meeting lasted over 30 minutes. Mr. Narasimha Rao declined to give any details of the discussions to newsmen and said that the party spokesman will brief the press later in the day. The others in the delegation were Mr. Shiv Shanker, Mr. Arjun Singh, Mr. Sharad Pawar, Mr. Karunakaran, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.

As already reported, the National Front convener, Mr. V.P. Singh; the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee; and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, had separate meetings with the president yesterday.

Situation in Country 'Under Control'

BK2305040491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, held a meeting with his senior cabinet colleagues to review the overall situation in the country. He directed that firm action should be taken to put down any attempt to disrupt law and order in the country. He said the states should not hesitate to seek the help of the Army wherever necessary.

Meanwhile, official sources said the law and order situation in the country is generally under control. In Delhi, patrolling in sensitive areas is continuing as a precautionary measure. Police pickets have been set up at strategic points. The Army is standing by to assist the civil authorities.

Security Situation Updated

BK2305091391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The law and order situation in Tamil Nadu is under control barring a few violent incidents. The inspector general of police told our Madras correspondent that about 1,500 persons have been rounded up till yesterday in connection with the violent incidents following the killing of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The state transport corporation has resumed skeleton bus services all over the state. Private buses are, however, not plying. There is no milk supply from the state government undertaking. In the meantime, one police sub-inspector injured in the bomb last [that killed Rajiv Gandhi] died in Government Hospital, Madras, raising the death toll to 17.

In Andhra Pradesh, the curfew has been completely lifted from the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad today as the situation in these areas is totally normal. The state director general of police told AIR [All India Radio] Hyderabad correspondent that the curfew is being relaxed in all other curfew-bound areas of the state today.

The situation in New Delhi is normal, but the city is slowly recovering from the shock of the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Government offices, banks, and commercial establishments opened this morning after being closed for a day. Buses are also plying normally. However, precautionary measures continue with the paramilitary forces on full alert.

In Uttar Pradesh, situation in the curfew-bound areas of Meerut, Varanasi, and Gulaothi, and Bulandshahr District is reported to be peaceful. According to an official spokesman in Lucknow, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere since last night. Paramilitary forces deployed in the sennsitive areas are keeping strict vigil round-the-clock over the situation. Army jawans [soldiers] are assisting civil administration in Gulaothi and Bulandshahr to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, a red alert has been sounded all over the state and all the district magistrates have been asked to seek the help of the army wherever necessary.

The curfew is being relaxed for four hours from 1230 in phases in the curfew-bound areas of Kanpur today. An official spokesman told our Kanpur correspondent that no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere during the last 36 hours. The jawans of paramilitary forces are maintaining a constant vigil over the situation.

Election Delay Criticized

BK2305092091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Election to the Dharwar Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka has been countermanded following the death of an independent candidate, Mr. M.G. Patil. Mr. Patil died of illness yesterday. The Election Commission says that repolling scheduled at some places on Saturday will now be held on the 12th of next month. The comission has already rescheduled the repolling due yesterday in some constituencies for the 12th of next month. A spokesman of the Election Commission said in New Delhi that the decision follows the new arrangements to complete the poll process by the 18th of next month instead of the 31st of this month.

Meanwhile, the chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have criticized the Election Commission's decision to defer the polls to next month. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Sunderlal Patwa said he has asked the

central leadership of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] to take up the matter with the Election Commission.

Mr. Biju Patnaik, at a press conference in Bhubaneswar, described the commission's decision as arbitrary. The Orissa unit of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has also criticized the commission's decision.

Iran

CIA Involvement in Gandhi Assassination Alleged

LD2305110991 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Two morning dailies Thursday editorialized on the Tuesday night assassination of former Indian Prime Minister and leader of the Congress (I) Party Rajiv Gandhi with the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI not ruling out CIA involvement and the English language TEHRAN TIMES stating the incident will worsen situation of Muslims in India.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote, "The U.S. intelligence service has long since been planning to destabilize the Indian sub-continent and especially India, and has done according to its own peculiar strategy. The goals of Washington in India is not to side with this or that group on a short-term basis, but the CIA pursues long-term goals in that country and seems that it has enough patience to attain its goals.

"The assassination of Gandhi, like that of his mother, will leave its impact on the political scene in India. Although he did not have the authority or the initiative of his mother but as a son of Mrs. Gandhi he enjoyed the good view of the masses and a good reputation.

"His absence from the political scene in India will not perhaps adversely affect the reputation of the Congress Party, but as the more dominant personalities of the party are steadily pushed out of the scene it is likely that the party will gradually lose its power.

"This is something that the CIA considers necessary for introducing less powerful parties in the political scene of the country, and therefore the most probable agent behind Gandhi's assassination may be a CIA agent."

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES wrote, "The dangers facing India as consequences of Gandhi's assassination are not confined to internal turmoil but, in view of the multiplicity of races and religions in India, it would not be an exaggeration to state that even Indian territorial integrity is at stake.

"The second cause of concern for Tehran is the fate of Indian Muslims on which Tehran will be keeping a close watch. In recent years Hindu fundamentalism, with a strong religious prejudice, has had an unusually rapid growth, and Hindu attacks on, and massacre of, Muslims has frequently occurred in the past few years. Muslim circles were especially counting on Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress Party to put an end to such senseless bloodshed.

"For the moment the best chance for avoiding a reign of chaos and terror in India depends on the success of the Congress Party leaders in preserving their unity and rallying their ranks taking back previous members who had quit on account of Gandhi. Prominent among the names of the former party members who should set national considerations above personal grudges at a critical juncture in the history of India, is that of V.P. Singh."

Ministry Spokesman on 'Deep Regret' Over Gandhi

LD2205105191 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Morteza Sarmadi Wednesday morning expressed deep regret over the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister and leader of the Congress (I) Party Rajiv Gandhi.

The spokesman termed the news of Gandhi's assassination as "shocking".

He expressed deep sympathy with the Indian nation and Government on the "loss of a political figure" adding that Iran hopes that India will successfully override the difficulties in this crucial juncture.

Meanwhile, a condolence book will be opened at the Indian [word indistinct] from 1500 to 1700 hours local time today and 1000 to 1200 and 1500 to 1700 hours Thursday.

Gandhi was killed Tuesday night when a powerful bomb exploded at an election rally in Tamil [words indistinct] 40 kms from Madras.

Foreign Ministry Protests U.S. 'Attack' on Ship

LD2205161191 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—An Iranian vessel was damaged and a navyman injured in a U.S. Navy attack in the Persian Gulf waters Tuesday night, it was announced in a statement issued here today by the Foreign Ministry's news and information department.

To protest the attack, the Swiss ambassador to Tehran who is in charge of the U.S. interest section, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today by the Deputy Foreign Minister for Communications Morteza Sarmadi. "The Islamic Republic of Iran's strong protest over this aggressive measure was conveyed to the ambassador," the statement said.

The U.S. Defence Department on Wednesday announced that a U.S. Navy ship in the central Persian Gulf had been fired on by two unidentified ships. A Pentagon spokesman, quoted by foreign news agencies, said however that he had no information on the nature of the attack or a description of the two vessels.

Incident Called 'Provocative'

LD2305094791 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' Thursday commented on an attack against an Iranian vessel in the Persian Gulf by American Navy Tuesday night calling it manifestation of efforts by the U.S. to show off its might to the regional countries. It said:

"The U.S. is not concerned about the destiny of the Iraqi people, but it is concerned about preventing the getting of power into the hands of Muslim revolutionaries... Syria would not agree to the conditions set forth by the U.S. because Damascus knows that there can be no guarantee about what Israel will not do in the future.

"The U.S. is trying to demonstrate its power to the Islamic Republic of Iran (in the Persian Gulf) and in Lebanon, a neighbor to Israel. Lebanon has been picked due to Israel's need for vital lands and the Islamic Republic of Iran has been picked because it is the only ideologically-solid state against the U.S...

"The provocative moves of the U.S. will find new dimensions in the future, and if they are not closely studied and exposed to the public, we will miss the opportunity for neutralizing those plots."

U.S., UK Held Responsible for Iraqi 'Massacres'

LD2205213291 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Vice Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hosayn Hashemian today held the United States and Britain responsible for the fresh round of mass massacres in Iraq. Addressing the open session of the Majles, Hashemian said "Saddam (Husayn) is a traitor to the Muslim world and the people of the region, for his savage assaults on the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala', and his slaughtering of Iraqi people." He supported the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's declaring Thursday a "day of national mourning" in protest against the desecration of holy shrines in Iraq, and said despite the will of the big powers the Iraqi people will continue their struggle to rid the country of Ba'thist rule. The leader's call against the latest desecration of the holy sites in Iraq, has generated worldwide protest against Baghdad's Ba'thist regime, and Muslims in many world countries are to stage protest rallies Thursday. In Lebanon, people shocked at the Ba'thist desecration of the shrines of the prophet's (PBUH) cousin and son-in-law, Imam Ali (PBUH) and that of the latter's two sons Imam Hosayn (PBUH) and Abul Fazl al-Abbas (PBUH), are to hold huge rallies tomorrow. In related news from Islamabad, the Movement for Implementation of Ja'fri Jurisprudence in Pakistan, has voiced support for Ayatollah Khamene'i's call, and declared Thursday "a day of mourning." Similar statements have been issued from Muslim parties and groups in India, Germany, Britain and the United States. "May the wrath of God strike the ungodly Ba'thist clique of Iraq for repeating the tragedy of the Day of Ashura...", said the statement issued Monday last by the leader of the Islamic Revolution. On "Ashura" the 10th day of the Muslim month of Muharrum, the Prophet's (PBUH) grandson, Imam Hosayn (PBUH), was tragically martyred along with his companions on the plain of Karbala' in the year 61 A.C. by the forces of the Omayyud tyrant Yezid.

Majles Speaker Rejects Relations With U.S.

LD2105172691 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Gonabad, Khorassan Prov, May 21, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi said here today that the U.S. will never come to friendly terms with Iran. He added friendly relations between Iran and the United States, any day, will mean that Iran has deviated from its principles.

The Majles speaker who was speaking to a group of people at the Jame' Mosque shortly after arrival here said that the U.S. has suffered a blow from Iran and that it will antagonize the Islamic revolution when and if it can. He said it would be naive to try to mend relations with the U.S.

The speaker said the Iranian people have inspired courage in other peoples of the world and helped nations stand against the militant expansionism of the United States. He said many countries of the world look at the Islamic Revolution in Iran as their model.

"We will have relations with all countries of the world except for the United States, Israel and South Africa. But we will never yield to foreign domination, and will not allow the plundering of Iran's resources," he said.

The speaker is currently touring Khorassan Province, northeastern Iran.

Ambassador Views Relations With Kuwait

PM2305115091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 May 91 p 2

[Unattributed interview with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] SAWT AL-KUWAYT conducted an interview with Hoseyn Sadeqi, Iranian ambassador to the State of Kuwait, about current affairs and Iran's view of the question of relations with the Gulf states, especially Kuwait and the Saudi Kingdom.

Our first question was about Iran's role in the regional security system being discussed. Ambassador Hoseyn Sadeqi said: We believe that the Gulf region is a single entity whose parts are strongly and inescapably linked. Common denominators and collective interests demand that all the Gulf states participate in consolidating the foundations of peaceful coexistence and providing security and sincere and sound cooperation. The Islamic

Republic of Iran certainly enjoys sufficient capabilities to work in that direction. Since the outset our principled position has been to perpetuate this approach. As we have announced on several occasions, we are against any change in the region's geography and against the foreign forces' presence. We believe that the fundamental factor for stability and security in the region is the perpetuation of mutual respect, noninterference in the internal affairs of others, and respect for sovereignty.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] How do you see the future of relations between Kuwait and Iran?

[Sadeqi] What has happened in the past 10 years, and especially in recent months, is the best example and evidence for us of the good intentions between us and Kuwait. We thank God for the fact that the practical steps to bolster joint cooperation are proceeding rapidly toward further improvement. We are optimistic about the future of relations. Areas of common action and bilateral cooperation are being studied. With Almighty God's help, in the future these relations will witness further activities and improvement. This is because Islamic beliefs, national and popular common denominators, and the rapprochement and goodneighborliness between us and Kuwait prompt cooperation with the brothers and officials in Kuwait in the stage of reorganizing and coordinating the country's conditions.

In view of the principled and Islamic foundations which the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys, it has such a willingness. We have also sensed Kuwaiti officials' eagerness to strengthen cooperation between our two countries, which prompts us to affirm that there is no obstacle in the way of improving and developing relations in the future. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] There is a strategic alliance between Tehran and Damascus. How would you assess relations between the two countries at present?

[Sadeqi] On the basis of past experiences of friendship and the Islamic beliefs and strategic stances that bind us, and especially the struggle against the common Zionist enemy, there is good, principled cooperation between us and Syria. We hope that this will continue in the future on the same basis.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] What role is Iran playing to secure the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon?

[Sadeqi] The Islamic Republic of Iran has proved on several occasions that it does its utmost to resolve any problem, especially if the problem has to do with humanitarian issues, of which the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon can be regarded as one.

It has announced on several occasions its willingness to make sincere efforts and to use its influence to secure their release, provided that the other parties have mutual initiatives and the intention to cooperate. But regrettably we have not sensed this from the parties concerned. I believe that we should in fact ask the Westerners: What have you done to release the hostages in Lebanon, and what role have you played?

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] In your view, should Gulf security and its future be handled by the Gulf states or by the Arab region's states? And does it require Western guarantees?

[Sadeqi] As I said before, the region's states need mutual and sincere cooperation for the sake of the region's stability and peaceful coexistence. And guarantees of everyone's interests can be reached, thanks to their common interests and through a positive understanding.

As for providing a guarantee for the Westerners, attention must be drawn to the fact that we support any sincere and constructive cooperation based on mutual trust. [passage omitted]

President Comments on Saudi Conditions for Hajj

LD2205153191 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday urged Iranian Muslims going on pilgrimage to Mecca to raise the issue of Arab states' recognition of Israel during the hajj rituals.

"This fact is the worst possible event and we should raise this during the hajj," the president told a congress on hajj which opened at the shrine of the late Imam Khomeyni at Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran Tuesday morning.

The president also described Saudi authorities' agreement to stage "antipathy towards unbelievers" rally by Iranian pilgrims as a "great victory" and as being of "special significance."

However, Rafsanjani said, they (Saudi officials) have disapproved of the rally to be staged in the streets.

"Anyway we are not concerned about expressing antipathy towards unbelievers necessarily in the streets. We have accepted their condition. We have key problems in the region that will not be solved by taking into streets," he said.

The president said it was Saudi Arabia, and not the Islamic Republic that severed diplomatic ties, but "they gained nothing." "Our innocence (in the issue) served to harm global arrogance. They realized that a country of 50 to 60 million people cannot be deprived of the hajj pilgrimage for ever," he said.

Rafsanjani noted that the issue of Palestine was perhaps "the most important issue of our time," with the Americans initiating a serious move. He was referring to the current U.S. efforts in the Middle East to push Arab states into a compromise with Israel.

Denouncing the presence of foreign forces in the region as a "new peril", Rafsanjani said "these people as

military victors and as the ones taking certain Islamic states away from danger, are after ominous plots."

"It is hard to believe that they have come to the region to establish peace and security," he said.

He also asked: "Aren't the Iraqi Ba'th Party and Saddam the puppets of these foreign forces? Who armed and equipped Saddam? Wasn't the security of the region in jeopardy when Saddam's forces occupied some Iranian provinces (during the Iraq-Iran war)?"

He warned that they (foreign troops) have not come to establish security and their aim was not to make the region safe. "So we should be vigilant and on alert," he cautioned.

Also addressing the congress, was Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, the imam's son who termed the theory of hajj as "very significant."

"Those on the pilgrimage to the kaaba (Allah's house) wanted to know how Islam was defined in the Islamic revolution and how the Islam followed by the late imam and the Islamic Republic was encountering difficulties."

He underlined the need for Iranian officials to defend the late imam's neither-East-nor-West policy and not be afraid of confronting certain countries. "Here at the shrine of the late imam we pledge not to back down from this policy (neither-East-nor-West) and to act upon whatever he preached during his lifetime," he said.

The leader of Iranian pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri lashed out at certain Muslim heads of state for their "impudent" efforts to establish contacts with the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime and to justify the so-called Middle East peace conference.

Reyshahri said the issues of Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan and oppressed Muslims in Africa and elsewhere in the world should naturally not be raised in "the American style of hajj."

Participants at the congress included the leader's representatives, members of the Guardians Council, ambassadors of Islamic countries to Iran and hundreds of managers of hajj caravans.

Majles Deputy Speaker on Day of Mourning

LD2205105991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpt] In a speech in this morning's Majles open session, a Majles deputy speaker referred to the declaration of public mourning by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, because of the cruel attacks by the Ba'thist regime of Iran on Karbala' and al-Najaf and the massacre of innocent people of Iraq. He called Saddam a traitor to the Muslim world and the people of the region.

He stressed that the people of Iraq want an Islamic government to be set up in Iraq. He added: The involvement of America and Britain in the crimes of the Iraqi regime and the massacre of the people of that country is perfectly obvious. But, despite their wishes and encouragement, the people of Iraq will continue their struggle to set up a popular and Islamic government and will eventually overthrow the Ba'thist regime. [passage omitted]

Saddam's 'War' Against Islam Decried

LD2305093791 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—All Muslims must shoulder the responsibility of protecting the holy places in Iraq, said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Thursday.

The English daily in its editorial titled "Saddam's New War Against Islam" noted that the leader of the Islamic revolution has declared today as a day of public mourning urging the world Muslims not to allow those responsible for desecration of the holy places in Iraq "to cover up their criminal actions and remain unpunished."

It wrote "Since the beginning of the popular revolt against the oppressive regime in Baghdad which started in the Iraqi Shiite heartland, al-Najaf and Karbala', Iraqi troops have brutalized not only the dissenting populace but also desecrated the Shiite Muslim sites."

"Destruction of Islamic monuments, particularly the resting places of the pious imams (As) [peace be upon them] and the descendants of the Prophet (Saw) [may God's peace and salutations be upon him and his companions] is nothing but desecration of the holy places of the Muslims, interference with their religious rites and their beliefs."

"It is something Muslims can't tolerate, such vicious offenses amount virtually to a war waged against Islam," the editorial concluded.

U.N Informed of Iraqi Violation of Territory

LD2205185491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has informed the United Nations that Iraqi forces, together with a number of mercenary elements belonging to the Monafeqin [hypocrites, term used to describe Iranian Mojahedin], violated Iranian territory in the region of Qasr-e Shirin on 15 May.

The Iranian representative office at the United Nations informed U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Iraqi soldiers, together with a small anti-Iranian group comprising an armored brigade supported by artillery, violated and advanced upon Iranian territory in the region of Qasr-e Shirin.

Comment on Complaint to UN

LD2205204291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 22 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's representative office at the UN, in an letter addressed to the UN secretary general yesterday, informed him of the cease-fire violations by the Iraqi troops along the Iran-Iraq frontiers. The letter has noted: On 15 May, Iraqi troops along with a number of elements from the hypocrite terrorist splinter group, forming one armored brigade and backed by artillery fire, launched an attack against the Iranian soil between Hedayat border check-post and Qasr-e Shirin. This incursion culminated in one Iranian being martyred and another 10 wounded.

Prior to this letter, Iran's representative office had despatched two other letters to Javier Perez de Cuellar last week, pointing to the continuing cases of truce violations by Iraq and stressing Tehran's self-restraint in retaliating for these instigating acts of the Iraqis. In those letters, Iran had called for a thorough investigation by the UN, especially by the UN secretaray general, in this matter.

Figures released in relation to the Iraqi truce violation in recent months show that in the course of incursions and aggressions by the Iraqi troops and their mercenaries, a total of 13 Iranian Muslims have been martyred and another 26 wounded, while four others taken prisoner. Perpetration of these acts on the part of the Iraqi Government since the termination of the Persian Gulf war, mostly stems from the Baghdad regime's deliberate intention to divert the public opinion within the outside of Iraq. In this way the Iraqi regime is trying to find a suitable cover for the problem of homeless Kurds as well as the heavy clashes with the dissident forces in the southern part of that country.

Under such conditions, while a long time has elapsed since the establishment of truce in the Iran-Iraq war in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 598, now is one of the most suitable opportunities for enforcing other paragraphs of that resolution. The coming visit of the UN secretary general to Tehran for assessing the damage inflicted upon Iran as a result of the imposed war can be a positive step in this direction.

Perez de Cuellar, Mottaki View Regional Issues

NC2305090691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 23 May 91

[Telephone report by unidentified Tehran Radio correspondent from London]

[Text] A meeting was held between Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, and the UN secretary general at UN Headquarters yesterday. They stressed the need to care for the Iraqi refugees, especially those in the south; full implementation of the paragraphs of UN Security Council Resolution 598; and a solution to the Afghanistan problem. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced that in implementing Paragraph 6 of UN Security Council Resolution 598, a delegation of UN experts will be sent to Iran to estimate the losses caused by Iraq's military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The UN secretary general made this statement during a meeting with our deputy foreign minister. He also pointed to Persian Gulf security and the UN's role in it, and especially in the full implementation of Paragraph 8 of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which concerns the security structure in the Persian Gulf.

During this meeting, Manuchehr Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, discussed the problems of the Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the need for more UN assistance for the refugees, and help in preparing favorable conditions for their return to their country.

The UN secretary general noted the need to assist the Iraqi refugees, expecially the homeless in southern Iraq.

Our deputy foreign minister emphasized the Islamic Republic's support for the UN secretary general's efforts toward a political solution to the Afghanistan problem. He said that Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity, along with the establishment of an Islamic and nonaligned rule in that country, are what all the Afghan people want. He also said that international efforts should pave the way for fulfilling these just desires of the Muslim Afghans. [end recording]

President Receives Afghan Coalition Leaders

LD2205111791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Mr Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the head of the interim government of the seven-party coalition of Afghan mojahedin, and a number of leaders of Afghan parties and mojahedin, were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

During the meeting Mr Mojaddedi thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for helping and supporting the popular movement of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He declared that the Muslim Mojahedin and innocent people of Afghanistan were determined to continue their course until the final victory and the rule of Islam in Afghanistan. He added: We and all the people of Afghanistan thank the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, Your Excellency, and other Islamic Republic officials for your ungrudging support for the people of Afghanistan. We hope to have that support forever.

Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his happiness to meet with the Afghan mojahedin leaders. He said Iran's policy entails supporting the innocent people of Afgahistan to attain the right to determine their own fate. He added:

We believe that all those who have taken part in the holy jihad of the Muslim people of Afghanistan should, with complete unity and conformity, have a share in the future of that country. No discussions will be acceptable without the participation of the Afghan mojahedin. We hope that with unity and solidarity you will be able to develop your country and be successful in that task.

ECO Conference Begins in Tehran

LD2205093291 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—The two-day ministerial session of the tripartite Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), grouping Iran, Pakistan and Turkey opened here Wednesday morning to review ways of promoting cooperation among the members.

Present in the meeting were First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Pakistan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki, Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Isin Celebi, director general of ECO Alireza Salari and a number of foreign ambassadors in Tehran.

The Turkish minister of state who arrived here Tuesday night said in an interview in Ankara Tuesday evening before leaving for Tehran that ECO efforts for promoting economic, agriculture, industrial and scientific cooperation continues.

He added that in the Tehran meeting he will put forward proposals on reducing customs tariffs and duties among the ECO members and giving the organization the necessary legal backing.

The ECO members believe that changes must be introduced to upgrade the efficiency of the organization, he said.

Turkey is interested in trade and joint investments among the members.

The Pakistani minister arrived here for the ECO meeting Monday and met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday.

Agreement on Investment Bank

TA2205185091 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], in which Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran are members, began in Tehran today.

State Minister Isin Celebi is heading the Turkish delegation to the meeting. In a statement to the TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] following the meeting held this morning, Celebi said that an agreement was reached for the establishment of a development and investment bank within the framework of the organization.

He added that an agreement of views was reached for a mutual reduction of customs among the member countries to provide for a favored trade system.

Celebi earlier called on Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Nezhad-Hoseynian for talks.

Cooperation Agreement Sought

BK2205114391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to cooperate closely for promotion of an early political settlement of Afghanistan. This was expressed during a meeting between Pakistan's Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, and the Iranian acting foreign minister, Mr. Boroujerdi, in Tehran. They also agreed to continue frequent consultations in order to coordinate a common approach for a peaceful solution consistent with the aspirations of the Afghan people and the imperatives of restoring sovereign, independent, nonaligned, and Islamic character of Afghanistan.

Velayati Meets With Pakistani, Turk

LD2305152191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Messrs Akram Zaki and Celebi, ministers of state for foreign affairs of Pakistan and Turkey, held separate meetings on Wednesday with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati and discussed issues of mutual interest.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in his meeting with Mr. Akram Zaki, Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Velayati said: Pakistan has always been a good neighbor to us and we accommodate a special respect for the feelings of that country's people toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. On trilateral cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, Mr. Velayati said: The positive points of view of the heads of the three countries is a sign of their serious political will for the expansion of trilateral ties and strengthening of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. We hope to take further steps in that regard in the future.

In the meeting with the Turkish minister of state for foreign affairs, our country's foreign minister also expressed his satisfaction at the speedy trend of cooperation within the ECO organization. He referred to the Persian Gulf crisis and said: No one doubts which side causes agitations, and that cause should be eliminated, through cooperation with other countries and international communities, so that stability and security is established.

Our correspondent's report indicates that, in those meetings, the Turkish minister of state for foreign affairs stressed his country's strong disagreement with Iraqi policies which have caused regional crisis, and said: Economic cooperation can play a significant role in establishment of independence, peace, and security in the region.

The Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs also thanked the Iranian nation and Government for their attention toward people of Pakistan, and exchanged views with our country's foreign minister on developments concerning Afghanistan, Kashmir, and international cooperation.

Velayati Meets Officials Again

NC2305074991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Isin Celebi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Akram Zaki, who are in Tehran, met separately with Foreign Minister Velayati.

During his meeting with Mr. Velayati, Mr. Celebi described President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Turkey as an extremely significant step in the expansion of relations between the two countries, emphasizing that Turkey is interested in expanding bilateral relations. On the regional crisis, he said: We oppose Iraq's policies, which brought a crisis to the region. We have many problems with that country. Pointing out that military strength cannot ensure regional security, the Turkish foreign minister said that tripartite Iran-Turkey-Pakistan cooperation can play an important role in regional stability and security.

Mr. Akram Zaki discussed bilateral relations, developments in the Afghanistan and Kashmiri problems, and international cooperation during his meeting with Mr. Velayati. He said: Pakistan is not considering any limits on the expansion of its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. All of the Pakistani people want this. The Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs expressed satisfaction with the progress of the tripartite talks among Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan and said: We hope this new step will be a new chapter in cooperation among the three countries.

During these meetings, our foreign minister commented on tripartite cooperation: The positive views of the three countries' heads of state manifest their serious political decision to expand tripartite cooperation and to strengthen the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. We hope to be able to take more steps toward this in the future.

On the regional crisis, Mr. Velayati said: Everyone knows the cause of the Persian Gulf tension and crisis. In order to establish stability and calm in the region this cause should be removed through the cooperation of other countries and international organizations.

Rafsanjani on ECO, Islamic Market

LD2305121591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Messrs Velayati, Akram Zaki, and Isin Celebi, the heads of the Iranian, Pakistani, and Turkish delegations at the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] ministers' meeting, were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

At the meeting Mr Velayati submitted a report to the president on the proceedings at the ECO session and the successful results achieved. Then the Turkish minister of state and the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs conveyed the warm greetings of the presidents of their respective countries. They described the holding of the ECO session in Tehran as a great step toward further cooperation between the three neighboring, Muslim countries.

Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his thanks for the warm and friendly greetings of the Turkish and Pakistani presidents. He expressed satisfaction about his recent trip to Turkey, describing it as a suitable opportunity for expanding the ever-increasing cooperation between the two countries.

He then praised the heads of the Iranian, Turkish, and Pakistani delegations and the experts of the three countries for their efforts and the successful outcome of the session. He said: The three neighboring Muslim countries of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey have great resources for exchanging and expanding cooperation, which should be utilized by the people of the three countries. The vast potentials and resources of the three countries for cooperation in cultural, political, economic, educational and research fields, necessitate an increase in efforts to expand such cooperation. However, it is foreseen that, considering the power such cooperation would create in the region, it might not suit certain parties and they may sabotage it.

Stressing the importance of the role of the ECO, he said: Without doubt this movement could be a prelude to a common Islamic market in the region. Therefore, the foreign ministers of the three countries should, while keeping a careful eye on the proceedings, give regular progress reports to their respective presidents so that the proceedings are better supervised.

At the end of the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Foreign Minister Velayati and his counterparts in the presence of our country's president. In the memorandum of understanding, the Iranian, Pakistani, and Turkish ministers endorsed the reduction of customs tariffs between the three countries, expansion of commercial ties, the establishment of a bank for joint ventures and the allocation of credit for the implementation of development projects. Also at the meeting, it was agreed that the ECO summit would be held in autumn this year.

Libyan Labor Minister Departs Tehran

NC2205071591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Mr. Ma'tuq Muhammad Ma'tuq, Libyan secretary of labor and vocational training, left Tehran this

morning at the end of a three-day official visit during which he signed a memorandum of understanding with Hoseyn Kamali, our minister of labor and social affairs.

The memorandum of understanding stressed cooperation between Iran and Libya in technical and vocational training, exchange of experts, and coordination in international organizations, as well as exchanges of labor forces.

Ma'tuq and Kamali spoke to our correspondent at the Mehrabad airport, calling the outcome of their talks positive.

Indonesian Energy Official Arrives in Tehran

NC2205070591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Mr. Ahimsa, head of the Indonesian Atomic Energy Organization, arrived in Tehran this morning. Vice President Amrollahi, who is also president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, welcomed him at the airport.

Khamene'i Addresses Pilgrimage Leaders

LD2205131491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpts] The representative of Vali-ye Faqih [Guardian of the Cause] and the supervisor of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri, accompanied by the clergy, officials, and inspectors of hajj convoys, was received this morning by the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He presented a report on the steps undertaken to prepare the pilgrims for their trip to Holy Mecca and Medina. In the course of this meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i made a speech, to which I draw your attention:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am grateful to all the brothers and sisters who have worked hard this year to prepare for this year's hajj. [passage omitted] God willing, the hajj rituals will be accepted by the Almighty when these lofty ceremonies are performed as He wishes in accordance with the line drawn for us by Islam and revived by our dear imam. It is the duty of everyone, particularly us Iranians, to make hajj a means of safeguarding Islam's honor and the dignity of the imam. It would be appropriate that all the brothers and sisters who go to hajj not consider the pilgrimage as a totally personal matter. An individual might feel that he carries on his shoulders the duty to go, worship, and return. This is not the entire objective of the rituals. This is only part of the issue. Each of our hajj pilgrims who goes from Iran this year is part of a great movement, part of a great global, Islamic, revolutionary, political, and worshipping task. They should consider themselves a part of this gathering and should act accordingly. This makes it necessary for everyone to watch his own moral behavior—in treatment of Muslims from other countries, behavior in their residences, behavior along the path to the shrine, in the shrine itself, and at the time of performing the rituals. Wherever they may be, they should behave in a manner to preserve our dignity. They should behave morally so as to bring honor to Islam, to the revolution, and to the imam. Everyone must observe this. But of course, the greater one's responsibility and knowledge of God's recognition—that is, people such as you, brothers and sisters—the more one should observe these matters. Some of the habits pursued by people should be curtailed and overshadowed by the hajj occasion. Some of the shopping urges, for instance—I am not saying they should be abandoned, but they should be limited so as to safeguard the dignity of our revolutionary society and great nation.

We hope this pilgrimage will be accepted by the lord of the age [the hidden imam], may our souls be sacrificed for him, God willing. May His Holiness' mercy cover you all there, and as you perform your rituals. May you all return home after completing your rituals acceptable to God. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all. [end recording]

Clandestine on Solution to Kurdish Problem

NC2205124891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 May 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Talks have been going on for some time between the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi Kurdistan Front representing the Kurdish people's movement in this country. News agencies cite both sides as saying that these talks are being held appropriately in a wholesome atmosphere with mutual understanding.

On the basis of these reports, the two sides have reached a consensus on the true and fundamental issues. The context and axis of the talks are the implementation of the 11 March 1970 accord, in which the existence of the Kurdish people in Iraq has been affirmed and their national rights have been given legitimate and official recognition. [passage omitted]

For various reasons, and as a result of the machinations of the enemies of the Kurdish entity, some years after the above accord was agreed upon, fratricide was again introduced in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the accord was never implemented as it should have been.

Efforts were later made for the implementation of the accord so that representatives of the Kurds and the central government could reach some agreements. However, these efforts failed each time.

Now, after years of fratricid and destruction, conditions have emerged that have allowed both sides to initiate

talks and negotiations. According to both sides, a consensus has been reached on the fundamental issues. As for solutions to other issues and greater compromises, there are hopeful signs. This is a source of joy to us and to the Kurds in Iranian Kurdestan, and in other parts of Kurdistan. [as heard]

In any case, this consensus will end the war and fratricide that has been raging among the children of Iraq—the Kurds and the Arabs. This consensus can also pave the way for consolidating friendly ties between the Kurdish people and the Arabs, as well as spreading democracy in Iraq.

In addition, this consensus can create conditions conducive to the freedom-seeking movements of the peoples in the region, and can provide a model for resolving the Kurdish problem in Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

From this point of view, our party and the Kurds in Iranian Kurdestan are watching the trend of the talks and their outcome with special interest. They are hopeful that these talks will be fruitful.

Under the circumstances, the Kurdish movement's representatives and the Iraqi Government officials should approach the issues with reciprocal goodwill and understanding. This is because the enemies of Iraq and of the Kurdish people have joined hands and are hatching plots even now.

The role of the reactionary anti-Kurd clerical regime has certain conspicuous characteristics, and it is clear that it intends to thwart the trend of negotiations in every possible way and to prevent them from attaining results. [passage omitted]

Everyone knows that if these talks achieve results, if the context of the 11 March 1970 agreement is completely implemented, and if the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan can achieve their lawful rights, the deprived Kurds in Iranian Kurdistan can also accelerate their struggle with greater intensity and fervor.

It is natural that the victory of the Iraqi people in Iraqi Kurdistan will affect the Kurdish people's movement in Iranian Kurdistan, as well as the freedom-seeking movements of the other Iranian people. We hope that the Iraqi people in Iraqi Kurdistan and the pioneering forces of the Kurdish movement and all the Iraqi patriotic forces will clearly comprehend the artifices and deceit of the mullahs' regime and will strive to foil these efforts and machinations of the clerics.

We hope that these talks will achieve results as soon as possible and that the substance of the 11 March accord will be implemented and put into practice. This will strengthen the friendship between the Kurdish people and the Arab people in Iraq and will also bolster the national unity of that country.

For this reason our party expresses its joy at the trend toward progress in these talks. Of course, if these talks do not reach a favorable outcome, it will mark a new outbreak of a fratricidal war for the Kurdish people in Iraq, as well as heavy and irrevocable human and material losses for the Iraqi Government. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President Condoles Gandhi Death at Indian Mission

BK2305093291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, visited the Indian High Commission in Islamabad this morning to condole the assassination of the former Indian prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Recording his sentiments, the president wrote that with this [word indistinct] demise, India has lost an illustrious leader of great stature and vision. He expressed the deep sense of sorrow on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan on the tragic death of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

Sharif Briefed on 'Threat to Security'

BK2205112191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, visited again the General Headquarters [GHQ] in Rawalpindi today. He visited the Headquarters yesterday itself.

On today's briefing, the prime minister was given a detailed discourse on the dimensions of threat to the security of Pakistan and the state of operational preparedness of the Pakistan Army to meet such a challenge. The authorities at the GHQ made certain recommendations to enhance the operational and combat efficiency of the Army.

The prime minister approved the recommendations of the GHQ for enhancing the operational and combat efficiency and issued instructions for their implementation.

Stresses Self-Reliance

BK2205163791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, again visited the General Headquarters [GHQ] in Rawalpindi today. He was briefed on the threat to the country's security and the state of operational preparedness of the Pakistani Army to meet such a challenge. Authorities at the GHQ made special recommendations to enhance the operational and (?frontline) efficiency of the Army. The prime minister approved these recommendations and issued instructions for their implementation.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif was apprised of the strategy the Army has evolved in coordination with Pakistan Air Force for defending the territories of Pakistan and Kashmir. The prime minister highly appreciated Pakistani Army's achievements and pinpointed some areas which can be still improved with ingenuity and hard work. He stressed

that plans must be prepared to develop our own capability to acquire self-reliance in production of defense equipment.

India Asked To Stop 'Brutalities' in Kashmir

BK2205092291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Pakistan has asked India to stop brutalities against innocent people in occupied Kashmir and ground violations by its forces on the Line of Control. Speaking on identical adjournment motions moved by Professor Qurshid Ahmad and Syed Abdullah Shah regarding atrocities being committed by Indian forces against Kashmiris and attacks on civilian population in Azad Kashmir, the minister of state for law, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, said these acts are being viewed with serious concern not only by Pakistan but the entire world.

UN To Investigate 'Atrocities'

BK2205105091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Pakistan has urged the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to send missions to probe the atrocities and gross human rights violations committed by the Indian troops in occupied Kashmir, as these atrocities and violations have reached dangerous levels. Pakistan's Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki has sent letters to the secretaries general of the United Nations and the ICO in this regard.

In his letter to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Akram Zaki said normal life in occupied Kashmir has been totally crippled and the economy damaged. The world is witnessing the systematic destruction of the social fabric in occupied Kashmir.

The letter further states that hundreds of houses and commercial centers have either been burned down or obliterated. People have been prevented from buying essential commodities because of the curfews. More than 3,500 persons have been killed by the occupation forces since January 1991, and the number of daily killings has reached alarming proportions.

Sri Lanka

President Sends Condolences to Gandhi Family

BK2205130491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] In a message of condolence, President Ranasinghe Premadasa said the tragic death of Sri Rajiv Gandhi is a profound shock. His assassination is a brutal and barbaric act. The president said all Sri Lankans join me in condemning this horrible and cowardly incident. [Words indistinct] Sri Rajiv Gandhi's contribution will be met.

Our heartfelt sympathy and regards for Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and his family. Our thoughts are with them and the people of India in their grief.

The president noted that this tragedy is one more reminder of the need for nonviolence in public life. The least we can do to honor the memory of Sri Rajiv Gandhi is to affirm our commitment to the principles of nonviolence.

LTTE Involvement in Gandhi Killing Not Ruled Out

BK2305092891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan defense secretary general, Cyril Ranatunge, has said that the possible involvement of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the bomb blast that killed Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is not ruled out. He said his government will give all assistance to the Indian investigating authorities, if asked for. He said the Navy has been asked to intensify patrolling in the Palk Strait to prevent any LTTE militants movement from India to Sri Lanka.

Security Forces Said To Control Karaitivu, Kayts

BK1805115691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The strategic island Karaitivu where the main Sri Lankan naval base in the north is located and Kayts directly south of it have been cleared of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and are now under the control of the security forces. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that government troops backed by air cover moved (?out) on Karainagar base and ended its siege by the terrorists. The security forces have been engaged in successful operation to clear both Karaitivu and Kayts of terrorists. These two islands in close proximity to Jaffna town are linked to the mainland by a causeway.

Since the situation has returned to normal, the security forces have requested the 40,000 civilians, who fled Karaitivu and Kayts due to LTTE terrorism earlier this month, to return to their homes. About 50 tons of milk food, dry rations, and other items were handed over on Tuesday to the civilians by the security forces after a pooja [prayer] at a Sivan [Hindu god] kovil [temple] at which both civilians and security force personnel participated. The distribution was organized by the Eelam People's Democratic Party, which is helping the civilians in the island.